



Image: DSRQ regional tour
Deaf Sports Awareness Training



Deaf Australia Sport Annual Report 2022

Building and strengthening opportunities for all.



OUR VALUES

- Integrity - we act honestly, morally and ethically
- Excellence - we strive to be outstanding
- Passion - we are committed to being the best we can be
- Equality - we offer status, rights and opportunities
- Nurturingww - we strive to care for an encourage growth and development



OUR OBJECTIVES

- We will foster leadership and mentoring
- We will consult, listen and be transparent
- We will develop a governance framework that will support the business
- We will have a risk analysis procedure
- We will advocate, educate and inform sports on the needs and wants of the deaf and hard of hearing communities
- We will host, conduct, manage and oversee National competitions and participate in International competitions



OUR OUTCOMES

- We will oversee commitment, relationship building
- We will have a sustainable and effective management structure overseen by a strategic-driven Board
- We will create agreed outcomes We will have concise and up to date policies that will drive the business mode
- We will develop encompassing pathways



OUR PRIORITIES

- Our Stakeholders
- Our Services
- Our Resources
- Our Communication

Image: Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub Fun day



Image: Kieren Perkins Sport Australia Meeting



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we enter into 2023, it is a time of reflection and excitement with the transition of covid-19 related lifestyle to a less restrictive environment in where we are feeling our way out of the pandemic and easing back into pre-covid activities with projects that have been put on temporary pause and/or new projects gaining traction. We continue to combine what was beneficial during the lockdowns and the return of travel through technology such as zoom to check in with people and new projects activated.

I would like to thank each and every stakeholder associated with Deaf Sports Australia (DSA) for their energy, commitment and leadership within their own space within the DSA family. All of you, volunteers, officials, staff, players, members, the board, family and friends, have worked so hard to ensure that DSA can deliver services, information and pathways for an active lifestyle.

DSA now has 15 national members, 7 staff, and numerous volunteers working tirelessly to guide active Deaf people into having opportunities. DSA worked with the Australian Sports Commission, Sports Integrity Australia, various state and federal government personnel, formed new alliances and touched base with our steadfast members and loyal supporters.

It has been a curious year for the Board as we remained productive but cautious with the pandemic with an increase on collaborations and strengthening already established pathways. The Board is pleased to see objectives attained and on track with other goals with the Australian Sporting Alliance for People with a Disability (ASAPD) consisting of nine national sporting organisations including DSA and the Australian Sports Commission aligning policies with Sports Integrity Australia and developing a legal entity. With ASAPD, we are in collaboration with the National Sports Tribunal's policies and processes. We have a strong governance base with a proven relationship with Sports Integrity Australia aligning with their National Integrity Framework requiring us to maintain updated policies and introduce new policies as necessary. We encourage members to review those policies on the website when they become available as we have obtained funding to have Auslan versions of the policies as well as English translations from Sports Integrity Australia and the Australian Sport Commission.

With the Australian Deaf Games (ADG) postponed to allow for a return to training, movement of skills and knowledge with trends for different sports emerging, we are excited to see that it is on track to remain the Games We Love as preparations are well under way for 2024. The DSA Board wishes to thank the Games Co-Patrons, Katie Kelly and Cindy-Lu Bailey for their role with the auspicious event. Thank you to the co-chairs of the Games Organising Committee, Todd Wright and Kate Matairvula and their team, for their commitment and energy for ADG which shall intensify when January 2024 approaches. We are proud to state that the games registration online is open and anyone can peruse the ADG website for registration information now.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the incredible effort shown during the pandemic and our emergence to a brave new world with increased movements and technology enabling us to lead active lifestyles with the volunteers, government stakeholders, members, staff and the Board. I would like to acknowledge the incredible Alex Jones who were with us until early 2021 and thank him for his support with DSA. We welcome Hannah Britton, Melinda Vernon and Catherine Dunn on the Board. We were able to enjoy the ongoing support of Board members, Greg Troedson, Tim Fitzmaurice, Tracey Corbin-Matchett and our General Manager, Phil Harper and his team. We are appreciative of your commitment to DSA and look forward to working for DSA in 2023/24. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the Chairperson for this organisation.

**Yours in Deaf Sports,
Kathryn Armfield President.**



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION – JOSEPHINE SUKKAR AM

Sport has a place for everyone and delivers results that make Australia proud.

This is the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) vision as we embark on a defining era in Australian sport over the next decade and beyond.

We are setting out to lead, support and provide opportunities for all communities to be involved in sport, while growing elite success and representation, inspiring future generations.

Our role, as the Australian Government agency responsible for supporting and investing in sport at all levels, is to increase involvement in sport and enable continued international sporting success.

We do this through leadership and development of a cohesive and effective sports sector, targeted financial support and the operation of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

We play a unique role in the sport ecosystem and tackle the big challenges and opportunities with and for the sector.

We're proud to do so and through our vision, we aim to bring out the best in everyone involved in sport as we establish Australia as the world's best sporting nation.

The 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games provided a perfect launch pad for our athletes to shine.

To finish on top of the medal table with 67 gold and cement our status as the most successful nation in the event's history sets us up brilliantly as we look to host the next Games in Victoria 2026.

These Games, uniquely hosted in regional areas, will be another opportunity to inspire Australians to get involved in sport, and to champion the role sport can play in engaging every Australian.

This is a defining era for Australian sport. We have begun the Green and Gold decade to Brisbane 2032, and we are focused on building sustainable success for decades to come.

The sporting strategies, programs and facilities we deliver now have the capacity to shape Australia's long-term prosperity, well beyond sporting boundaries. A thriving Australian sport system is enormously influential to a thriving Australia.

We will advocate for sport and its positive influence on Australia, promote and support inclusive and diverse sporting environments and drive thought leadership and innovation to inspire world's best practices.

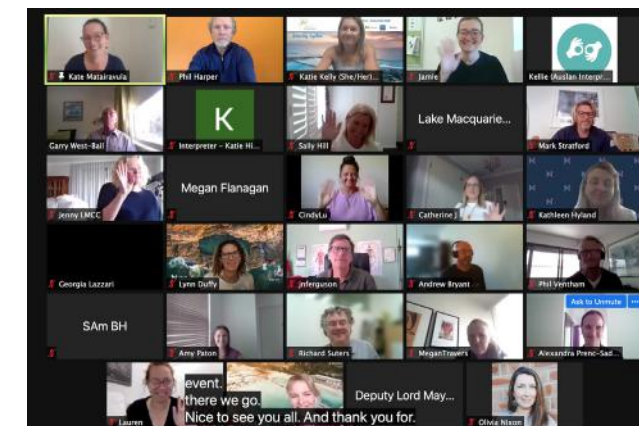
We will build the capability of sport and the people involved through projects like our Sport Volunteer Coalition Action Plan which outlines a new approach to foster positive, safe and fulfilling experiences for sport volunteers, and our Women Leaders in Sport programs which champion equal representation in sport.

It has been great to see the AIS site buzzing with activity again after a challenging few years due to COVID-19. We continue to welcome sports and athletes back to the campus, who are all keen to use our facilities to prepare for major sporting events.

Our aim is for sport in Australia to be world's best so we will optimise our facilities to advance sport and use them to showcase sport at its best.

This is an incredible opportunity to unite and inspire Australia through sport as we capitalise on the calendar of major sporting events on the road to a home Olympic and Paralympic Games.

On behalf of the ASC, thank you to everyone who contributes to Australian sport with the aim of making it better for all.



Josephine Sukkar AM



Image:
ADG Business
Lunch Oct 2021

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The period between July 2021 and June 2022 was almost divided into two halves. First half saw the slow emergence from a COVID world, where government and sports took a 'careful' approach for a 'return to sport and community.'

We were still limited with facilitating our programs to schools where they banned external organisations visits due to 'health and safety' reasons and for our Deaf Sport Organisations hampered by their own hesitation to mingle with others due to the still existing risk of contracting COVID. This also seriously impacted on our ability to hold the 2022 Australian Deaf Games in April – it was postponed until January 2024 due to COVID hesitancy among the community affecting registration numbers. More information further in this report.

We were able to get some excellent and much needed project funding (AFL Participation project and Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub Project) which provided a positive impetus to the change taking place in the January – June 2022 period. Not only were doors opening to return to sport programs, but the projects did allow us to expand our reach and show that we are innovative in our approach to delivering services to our deaf and hard of hearing communities. More on those exciting projects below.

Staffing wise, we were able to recruit new staff to assist with our projects and maintain our core staff, except for a change at Deaf Sport Recreation Victoria. Over Julie Lyons and Lauren Townsend continued on as our Sport Development Officers (SDO) for Deaf Sport Recreation Queensland (DSRQ) and NSW Deaf Sport (NSWDS) respectively. Jesse Cattach left us in December 2021 and Alisha Wormald replaced him as SDO for Deaf Sport Recreation Victoria (DSRV). Rosalie Kassulke continues as our brilliant Finance Officer and Garry West-Bail continues as our Project Manager for the Australian Deaf Games which should have been held in April 2022 but due to COVID restrictions, we moved it to January 2024.

When we received funding from Sport Recreation Victoria for our Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub Project at DSRV, Alisha Wormald took on the role as Sport and Community Development Officer.

Shiv Wheeler joined us as Project Manager for our Australian Sport Commission funded AFL Participation project with Kielly Ryan and Dylan Beasley joining us as AFL Project Officers in Victoria and Queensland respectively.

The following is a summary of our work over the last 12 months:

1. Sport Development Officers Program

The past year was made up of two halves – both proved a challenging time for our DSA Sport Development Officers (SDO's) based in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Their roles on a state level, are to support sport participation and opportunities primarily out in the community and working with sport organisations and schools to offer sport activities to deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. COVID-19 restrictions from June – December 2021 limited any community engagement work, except via videocommunication (Zoom) means.

As 2022 began, returning to sport play became more real, moreso for those sports where little physical contact was made, but our teams challenge was to change our members perception from hesitancy to keenly returning to sport to and encouraging their own members, families and friends to get out and about. Into sport and physical activities and health. Some schools were still restricting external organisations from visiting which impacted on our ability to use the Sport School Program as opportunities or other sport options.

Our proposal to the WA government to establish an SDO position to work under DSA and Western Australia Deaf Recreation Association (WADRA) was successful and funding will become available from July 2022 onwards. This is a great development for a large state like WA and enabling WADRA to grow and provide a range of sport programs for deaf and hard of hearing community.



Image: AFL Deaf project DSAT session- Calvin, Phil and Kielly

Here is a summary of SDO work over the last 12 months:

Our SDO's and the General Manager have been having regular meetings that included:

- Staff team meetings with General Manager;
- Networking with State Sport Organisations and State Government's through relationship building, program support, deaf awareness training and information sharing;
- Continuing the development of our Active Kids Program with the Australian Sport Commission's Sporting Schools Program through networking with schools that have deaf and hard of hearing students, attending teacher of the deaf meetings and developing relationships with national and state sport organisations;
- Overseeing, reviewing and implementing operational and 'Return to Sport' plans;
- Creating community engagement activities to off-set COVID-19 pandemic restrictions during the period when no sport play was possible.
- Improving and creating new resources such as information on each of our organisations (pamphlets) and deaf sport awareness information and presentations.
- Supporting additional resource information development available on our website;

Below is a snapshot of what has been happening with our SDO's in Queensland, NSW and Victoria:

Victoria – Deaf Sport Recreation Victoria (DSRV)

Our Sport Development Officer is responsible for supporting sport programs for deaf and hard of hearing people in Victoria. We appreciate support from Sport Recreation Victoria for providing funding through their Together More Active program.

Jesse Cattach resigned in December 2021 and Alisha Wormald took over with a broader role when we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Sport Recreation Victoria's (SRV) Access for All Abilities program (AAA) to establish and trial a Deaf Hub program in Endeavour Hills (see Projects report for further details).

An application to Change Our Game grant of \$5000 to Growing Sport and Recreation participation for deaf and hard of hearing girls and women was successful. This was an exciting outcome which hopes to provide better opportunities and support for participation in sport and recreation.

Apart from the shared collaborative work with the SDO team and General Manager, Jesse's and Alisha's work over the last 12 months also included:

- Supporting a deaf work experience student learn about sport participation and management work;
- DSRV member meetings and Victorian team preparation for the planned 2022 Australian Deaf Games (now 2024); Meetings with SRV
- An ADK / SSP cricket program at Victorian College for the Deaf in February 2022 - 30 students;
- Ongoing COVID-19 'impact audit' information and sport audit reporting to the State Government;
- Ongoing development and implementation of Sport Integrity Australia National Integrity Framework policies;
- Attended Victorian Disability Alliance meetings;
- Networking with Basketball Victoria, Football Victoria, Little Athletics, WeFlex, NextSense, Athletics Victoria, Tennis Victoria, Cricket Victoria, Expression Australia, Deaf Victoria, Victorian Deaf Education Networks VDEN (schools and teachers in Victoria, deaf and mainstream) and Vicsport;
- Preparation to manage and facilitate Secondary Schools Sport Day in liaison with VDEN in August 2021 with potentially 110 deaf and hard of hearing students attending and the planned 2021 Primary School Deaf Sports Day (October 2021) – both cancelled due to COVID restrictions;
- Relationship building with State Sport Organisations;
- Quarterly DSRV newsletters.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

New South Wales

Lauren Townsend's work includes working for and supporting NSW Deaf Sports, its committees and affiliated members. We are grateful to the Office of Sport for continuing to provide funding to allow us to implement the SDO program in NSW. This included the Community Support Recovery Package – Operational and Grassroots Funding Allocations. \$4000 of this funding package was made available to our NSW Deaf

Sport clubs to support them with 'return to sport' and COVID safety options. Lauren was still unable to go out to visit schools until February 2022 and it required significant catchup with our school network colleagues.

As part of the SDO team sharing collaborative work with the General Manager, Lauren's work in NSW over the last 12 months included:

- Delivering Active Deaf Kids programs to 16 participants in total;
- Hosting Sporting Schools Programs to two new school locations with a combined number of 33 students;
- Attending meetings and events with the NSW Deaf Sport Committee (NSWDS) and Deaf Sport Clubs consecutively, with some actions including:
 - Increasing affiliation number to 16, three of which are new sport clubs
 - Hosting the NSWDS Community Gala Day with over 40 people, including youth and children, in attendance and participating in sporting activities
- Contributing to an awarding of a Deaf senior athlete for long service in Table Tennis
- Continuously providing support in promoting public interest in new sports on social media and through networking.
- Ongoing development and implementation of Sport Integrity Australia's National Integrity Framework policies;
- Managed a Student Work Placement in Term 2, with the support of staff;
- Planning events including NSW Deaf Sports Public Forum, Regional Tours & delivering DSA's Active Deaf Kids Programs in school appointments;
- Preparing NSW Deaf Sports for the 2022 (now 2024) Australian Deaf Games, including establishing a State Team Management and;
- Handling numerous meetings and individual cases with deaf, hard of hearing individuals and organisations on complaints or access issues.

Work involving organisations include:

- Continuously working on the 'Her Sport, Her way' grant project: Deaf Women in cricket - shared management with Deaf Sports Australia's General Manager – deadline extension granted due to COVID-19 impacts. Discussion and planning continue with Cricket NSW;
- Networking with stakeholders from sport industry involving table tennis, basketball, touch football, Hearing Australia, Office of Sport NSW and Sports NSW;
- Planning discussions with staff from NSW Department of Education;
- Sharing advice and information with Wheelchair Sports NSW regarding their lead project, The Adaptive Movement, and;
- Participating in Child Safe Engagement Forum delivered by Office of Sport NSW in conjunction with Sport Integrity Australia;



Image: Trevor Boyle accepting Volunteer of the Year award from Sport NSW



Image: Lauren Townsend - presenting at Board Staff Day

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

Queensland

Julie's SDO position is funded by the Queensland Government and the current Active Industry Fund agreement enables us to continue on for another year. She is responsible for managing Deaf Sport Recreation Queensland (DSRQ) and supporting the member deaf sport clubs.

Apart from the shared collaborative work with the SDO team and General Manager, Julie's work over the last 12 months included:

Sport Activity program partnership with various organisations:

- Continued a great partnership with Diving Queensland offering sessions in September and October 2021 and
- Tennis Talent Development and A 'Come and Try Out' sessions were attempted in late 2021 but were cancelled due to lack of numbers (likely COVID hesitancy);
- Very successful regional tours in July 2021 covering Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and also Toowoomba and Wide Bay region with over 200 contacts made including deaf and hard of hearing students, teachers, parents, Deaf community and local Council and Sport teams;
- Organising SSP (School Sporting Program) including Kedron State High School, Ipswich Central State School;

New or ongoing partnerships with organisations were critical for our ability to expand our services and sport opportunities. Over the last 12 months we worked with:

- Diving Queensland
- Tennis Queensland
- Hear For You
- Athletics Queensland
- University of Queensland Athletics Centre
- Brisbane City Council Park Accessibility program
- Education Queensland
- AFL Queensland
- DSA AFL Deaf Auskick program

DSRQ & Deaf Sport Clubs events:

- Deaf Sport Club meetings and support
- Auslan translation on "Returning to Play" including the restrictions protocols in sports;
- Organised some of our annual events such as a successful Futsal Gala Day in October 2021 where 45 students from 11 schools participated;
- Our popular Deaf Sports Day in September 2021 was back after being cancelled in 2020 with over 80 students participating;
- DSRQ Deaf Youth Camp was moved to March 2022 due to COVID restriction's in 2021 but due to time commitments moved to later in 2022;
- Continued supporting our deaf sport clubs and members through meetings, advice and support;
- Preparation work for our Queensland team for the 2022 (now 2024) Australian Deaf Games
- Bi-monthly newsletters.

Deaf Sports Awareness Training:

Our popular Deaf Sport Awareness training (DSAT) sessions continued where participants learned about deafness, the impact it has on deaf and hard of hearing people, communication tips and support in sport participation and Auslan learning. Julie was able to provide our DSAT several times over the year including:

- Ipswich Central State School and Ipswich Central High School
- Kedron State High School
- Centenary Heights State High School (Toowoomba)
- Townsville and Mackay sessions
- Caboolture High School

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

2. Projects

Australian Sport Commission Participation Grant – AFL project

Deaf and hard of hearing (D/HoH) Australians love sport, including the AFL. Being a team sport where communication is critical to participation and enjoyment, it is difficult for D/HoH to embrace. DSA applied for a grant through the Australian Sport Commission Participation program and was successful. This project aims to develop and implement strategies to change and improve participation levels'

The project where DSA partnered with the AFL, aimed to provide real opportunities for all deaf and hard of hearing Australians to have better access to AFL sport and also provides training and inclusion solutions for the AFL to embed into their programs. Funding started in January 2022 and aims to be completed in 12 months.

Prior to the project starting, Deaf Sport Australia and the AFL recently undertook a survey with the deaf and hard of hearing community to ask them questions in relation to participation in AFL sport. In the 2-week survey window we received 75 responses (32 female / 43 male). Responses came from Victoria (60%), WA (17%), NSW (9%) and QLD (8%).

Of the 75, 25 currently play AFL community football. 85% said they would like to have access to both an AFL Deaf program as well as access to their local club.

A key comment that summarised the feeling of most respondents and clearly endorse support for the project: "AFL is one of my favourite hobbies to do every day, but barriers about my deafness which cost me – can't see a bright future to play on a bigger stage ... hope things can change."

We have already established that deaf and hard of hearing Australians are not sharing the same % uptake in AFL in comparison to the wider community with 227 (0.21%) out of 105,700 AusKickers and 395 (0.1%) of 391,000 adults playing AFL. There are approx. 6,600 D/HoH children and 290,569 D/HoH adults who could potentially enjoy participating in AFL sport if given better opportunities.

Developing an accessible, inclusive and sustainable pathway for deaf and hard of hearing Australians to participate in Australian football will go a long way to significantly increasing participation numbers and importantly boost health and enjoyment in being physically active. The AFL are keen to see how an 'AFL Deaf' inclusion program could become embedded into their existing structure and it is hope the project final report would provide direction.

The 3 major project tasks included:

- Trialling an NAB AFL Auskick program for deaf and hard of hearing children in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia in August – October 2022. Queensland already had an existing stand-alone program called 'Auslan Footy' at Yeronga Football Club with support from Deaf Connect, footy club and keen deaf and hard of hearing football players and volunteers.
- Victoria and WA were new and guidance from the adapted Queensland program will prove vital.
- Developing a deafness awareness training model for the AFL team (staff and Volunteers) as well as resources that could be accessible on the AFL website. DSA also supported the AFL AllPlay platform by providing input, advice and review of their learning information and resources.
- Trialling an AFL Deaf program where deaf and hard of hearing Australians keen on football participation could have the opportunity to play together. Model is based on the AFL's existing AFL Inclusion program which supports AFL Wheelchair, AFL Blind and an AFL program for those with intellectual impairments.
- Initially Simon O'Neill was appointed Project Manager and when he moved on Shiv Wheeler took over and worked closely with the AFL and DSA team to make the project work. Dylan Beasley (QLD), Kielly Ryan (VIC) and Adam Barnes (WA) were appointed as Project Officers to support Shiv with carrying out the tasks locally.

A national advisory group that included Shiv Wheeler (Project Manager), Mia Walsh (Auslan Footy, QLD), Bryn Davies, Nathan Pepper (AFL Disability Inclusion Manager) and Phil Harper (DSA) are overseeing the project.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

Victoria - Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub Project

Bringing the community of deaf and hard of hearing people together was an urgent need after the impact of COVID-19 pandemic which severely restricted community, social and personal interaction over the last 18 months.

Deaf and hard of hearing people who need access to good communication to effectively participate in society, work, community sport and recreation activities were seriously impacted by the lack of a community hub space and the COVID pandemic restrictions – creating real concerns with community engagement and development disconnect, obesity, mental health, wellbeing and accessible physical activity / sport development options.

The Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub project is supported by Access for All Abilities, an initiative of the Victorian Government AS a way to bring the community back together through offering various sport, recreation, community, leadership and social development programs and provide a 'return to community' hub initiative. This will help restore confidence, interest in community participation, physical activity participation and fitness, capacity building and reducing the pandemic's impacts. The project addresses these concerns through providing a 'hub' access to various sport, recreation, fitness, advocacy, community information and development programs to suit a range of deaf and hard of hearing people including seniors, women, families, school-aged children, young people, deaf people with other disabilities or from other backgrounds and the community as a whole.

The collaboration team involves the following group/organisations:

- Deaf Sport Recreation Victoria (lead organisation)
- Deaf Victoria
- Casey Deaf Club
- Endeavour Hills Neighbourhood Centre
- Endeavour Hills Leisure Centre

Alisha Wormald was appointed our Sport and Community Development Officer to co-ordinate this project and work with all partners and the community to make it a success.

After we started in May 2022, with a well-attended 'Opening Day' where participants could try out different sports for all ages including gym, volleyball, Zumba class, basketball, netball and other activities, as well as share their interests in the activities already organised by both Endeavour Hills Neighbourhood Centre and Endeavour Hills Leisure Centre. It was an opportunity to add activities of interest the Deaf Hub team could pursue. Very quickly, Zumba and Gym classes were on offer with Auslan interpreting support, a drop-in centre was organised every fortnight managed by Casey Deaf Club and Casey Deaf Club moved their monthly functions to the Neighbourhood Centre with first meeting having over 60 people attending. Deaf Victoria have organised 'self advocacy' and NDIS Information sessions and will be organising a conference in 2023. The project funding finishes in June 2023 and we aim to establish proof of an ongoing funding need as well as creating a similar model for the north-western



Image: Phil & Calvin

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

3. Australian Sporting Alliance for People with a Disability (ASAPD)

The Australian Sporting Alliance for People with a Disability (ASAPD) concept evolved back in 2017 with support of the 9 National Sport Organisations for Disability including DSA as well as Sport Australia (now Australian Sport Commission). ASAPD has come a long way since and over the last 12 months, the following activities have been carried out:

- Appointment of a Project Manager (Garry West-Bail)
- Strategic Plan development
- Website development - <https://asapd.org>
- Social Media platform
- Monthly Oversight meetings
- Planning to establish a legal entity
- Working with SIA on National Integrity Framework policies
- Working with National Sport Tribunal in policy awareness and processes
- Submissions to government and other inquiries on sport and physical activity
- Representation on various committees including the ASC Sport Volunteer Coalition

We are keen to see the legal formation of ASAPD which will provide a stronger representation of sport and disability and enable funding to be sourced to support the activities and members.

4. Sporting Schools Program

Deaf Sport Australia has been involved with Sporting Schools Program (SSP) since 2020. Despite being interrupted when COVID lockdowns and restrictions occurred across Australia, we have managed to get a few sport programs started in Queensland, NSW and Victoria. The application format with SSP does not work well with our organisation because schools apply for a specific sport program which usually means they organise with a national sport organisation first, then link in with us. This has made it difficult for schools with deaf and hard of hearing students to get us involved, but we are currently negotiating with SSP team to make it easier and more effective.

Looking to a better way in 2022 – 23 period and more opportunities for the 12,000 plus deaf and hard of hearing students across Australia to access.

5. Sport Integrity Australia

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) role is to provide a National Integrity Framework (NIF) that provides policy guidelines, advice and assistance to all national sport organisations including DSA to counter the:

- use of prohibited substances and methods in sport
- abuse of children and other persons in a sporting environment
- manipulation of sporting competitions
- failure to protect members of sporting organisations and other persons in a sporting environment from bullying, intimidation, discrimination or harassment.

DSA is required to maintain up-to-date policies such complaints handling, anti-doping, member protection, child-safety, etc to ensure our organisation's governance principles are compliant and well managed. This protects our Board, staff, members and all participants in our programs.

At our May 2022 Board meeting, we endorsed all the NIF policies and have shared them to our members as well as located them on our website. Next steps is to train our members to ensure they are across and can implement them as needed.

SIA have provided funding to translate relevant policies in Auslan.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

6. COVID-19 pandemic 'Return to Sport' plan

While the global COVID - 19 pandemic continued to impact everyone during 2021, it did start to ease of during the latter part of the year with sporting opportunities opening up where possible and where there were less risk of crowds and confined areas. However our work with schools and specific organisations was limited until mid 2022 due to varying government rules in different states on external visitor options.

DSA was impacted like all other sport organisations across Australia, and we had to continue to undertake changes and be innovative to ensure we were still productive and operate functionally and effectively. Our work in relation to COVID- 19 management included:

We continued to update our members and share 'Return to Sport' advice and options. We continued to participate in:

- 'COVID - 19 NSO / NSOD engagement and information networking;
- 'Return to sport' management;
- Auslan translation of critical COVID-19 updates;

A significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was the social and sport participation hesitancy that permeated the Australian community which made a return to sport very slow progress. Despite being ready to go with the planned Australian Deaf Games for April 2022, we found that registration numbers were well below expectations and consultation with our National Deaf Sport Organisation members saw that they were not ready to organise their sport competitions. A decision was made in January 2022 to postpone the Games and fortunately in discussions and with goodwill from our Games partners and sponsors, they agreed this was the correct decision and we were able to move the Games to January 2024, still in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.

A difficult decision was also made not to send an Australian team to the 2021 Deaflympics in Brazil (moved to May 2022) due to Federal Government advice, our inability to travel overseas and COVID risks in Brazil. This decision was accepted by our members.

We continued to work with our members to assist them with sport event and participation plan management for the 2022 – 2024 period and beyond including the Australian Deaf Games and both national and international deaf sport events.



Image: Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub Open Day - Basketball

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

7. National Deaf Sport Organisations (NDSO)

Our national membership includes 15 National Deaf Sport Organisations (NDSO's) who are supported in their sport, membership and development programs. The following are examples of support activities undertaken including:

- Sport Integrity Australia National Integrity Framework policies sharing;
- Discussion on 2021 (May 2022) Deaflympics participation;
- 2022 and 2024 Australian Deaf Games information, support and preparation sharing;
- Deaf Tennis Australia - Tennis Australia collaboration work;
- Deaf Cricket Australia – ongoing MoU agreement, International competition participation and National Cricket Inclusion Carnival with Cricket Australia;
- Deaf Football Australia – connecting with Football Australia and international competition participation support
- Deaf Basketball Australia - support in relationship discussion with Basketball Australia and participation in international competitions;
- Deaf Golf Australia – 2022 World Deaf Golf Championships participation support and 2024 World Deaf Golf Championships (Gold Coast, Qld) preparations;
- Deaf Aquatics Australia - support for classifications and new committee development;
- Regular NDSO Networking zoom meetings.

It has been a difficult last 2 years with the COVID pandemic impact and hesitancy to get back to sport or physical activities after adopting a different lifestyle and work routine to cope with a COVID environment. Hopefully over the next 12 months with the growing excitement of the forthcoming 2024 Australian Deaf Games, a sense a balance will return.

8. National Sport Organisations

A continuing role which is now more critical in supporting sport participation and pathway opportunities is our relationships and networking with sport stakeholders such as National Sport Organisations (NSO's). We have increased our connections with NSO's which include MoU agreements, inclusion and deaf awareness training program support, Sporting Schools Program partnerships or information sharing networking. We have connected with the following NSO's over the last 12 months:

- NSO CEO's 'National Sport Collective' monthly meetings
- Swimming Australia
- Athletics Australia
- Little Athletics
- Basketball Australia
- Tennis Australia
- AFL
- AusCycling
- Touch Football Australia
- Bowls Australia
- Rugby Australia
- Football Australia
- Table Tennis Australia
- Volleyball Australia

A highlight has been our partnership with Tennis Australia who have done an extraordinary job with providing pathway opportunities for Deaf and hard of hearing tennis players to develop their potential and skills. 'Come 'n Try' days, Talent ID events, State / Territory Championships, National Championships and a deaf competition event at the 2022 Australian Open. They are also supporting international competition participation. Many thanks to Tennis Australia's Inclusion and High Performance team for their wonderful support.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

9. Australian Deaf Games – January 2024

The planned Australian Deaf Games in April 2022 was moved to January 2024 due to poor registration numbers. COVID hesitancy was a major factor in this as well as Western Australia borders being closed or travel restrictions in place not allowing our WA deaf and hard of hearing participants to join in. This was also the case for our New Zealand and Oceania friends.

We were fortunate that our Games partners, Destinations NSW and the two City Council's, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie understood and accepted our request for a postponement, as did our sponsors. Garry West-Bail as Project Manager has worked tirelessly to manage this change despite everything being ready to go. To summarise our preparations now for January 2024, here is what is in place:

- Games Co – Patrons - Cindy Lu Bailey and Katie Kelly
- Co – Chairs, Kate Matairavula and Todd Wright have continued to regularly meet with the Games Organising Committee and these meetings will ramp up in 2023;

Our Sponsors include:

- Government partner - Destination NSW
- City Partners - Lake Macquarie and Newcastle City Councils
- Principal Games Sponsor - Deaf Connect
- Principal Venue Sponsor - Wests Group Australia
- Platinum Corporate Sponsors - AiMedia, SWS Lawyers, Word Of Mouth Technology, Expression Australia and Rehabilitation Specialists
- Support Corporate Sponsors - BioRevive, Newcastle Airport, Sanitarium, Hearing Australia, Nextcares
- Supporting Businesses – Impact, Signwave, Rover, Quest, Newcastle car & Truck Rental, Robtec Hosting, Alinta and Club Macquarie.

Opening Ceremony to be held at the NEX Entertainment Centre in Newcastle and the Closing Ceremony will be at the Speers Point Multi Arts Pavilion on Lake Macquarie;

- The Games Hub will be at the NEX Entertainment Centre;
- Games registration is live and online;
- Sport venues and Social Program are confirmed;

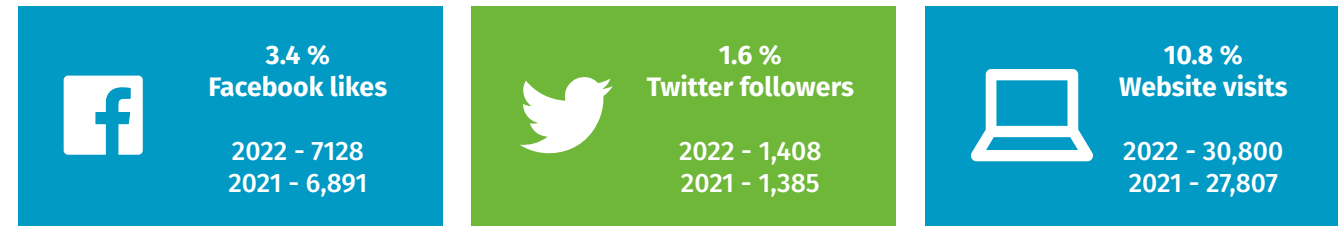
With 2024 to include a celebration of 70 year since Deaf Sport Australia was established (as Australian Federation of Deaf Sport) and 60 years since the first Australian Deaf Games in 1964 (Sydney), we have a new and exciting development recently confirmed with the planned partnership with Newcastle Museum for an exhibition about our Deaf Community, Sport, Heritage, Language and Culture. This will be the largest ever exhibition in Australia and we look forward to developing this experience.

We are now in a new place of having to start again to ramp up enthusiasm and interest between now and January 2024 to get as many people involved in the Games experience. We look forward to gathering in one place to celebrate and enjoy sport and community. the next 12-24 months, where we can return to enjoying our passion for sport.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

9. Media & Communications

The down time forced by the COVID pandemic provided more opportunities to focus on our website, resource development and social media work. COVID information updates involving sport were regularly shared. Lauren Townsend continues to do a great job managing our social media and website platform. Our quarterly 'Active Hands' newsletter continues to be popular as do our series of Vlog interviews with our esteemed deaf leaders including Anne Bremner and David Peters as well as Tokyo Olympics Swimming Gold Medallist, Meg Harris who has a hearing loss. These were widely viewed and we hope to increase this as mor opportunities arise.



10. Acknowledgements

Thank you to our wonderful DSA team including:

- SDO staff - Julie Lyons at DSRQ, Lauren Townsend at NSWDS and Jesse Cattach / Alisha Wormald at DSRV and Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub project;
- Garry West-Bail for his excellent work with the Australian Deaf Games project management;
- Lauren Townsend for her continuous excellence with our media and communication tasks;
- Shiv Wheeler, Simon O'Neill, Dylan Beasley and Kielly Ryan on our exciting national AFL Project.

Thank you as always to all our DSA Members who are now re-emerging from not being able to organise and play sport to re-energising their own members to get back into sport and physical activities, not only locally but also international sport opportunities as well. Videocommunication technology such as Zoom continued to be our gateway for regular contact, sharing information and check on the health and wellbeing, which worked well and we look forward to catching up face to face.

To our Federal and State Government supporters, Australian Sport Commission, Sport Integrity Australia, our friends at the Australian Sporting Alliance for People with Disabilities, and National and State Sport Organisation colleagues and other networks in the Australian sport industry - we thank you for your support to assist our organisation work towards achieving our objectives and being an important contributor to supporting access to sport and the enjoyment it offers.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the DSA Directors led by our President, Kate Armfield. To Alex Jones who left our Board in November 2022 - many thanks for your commitment, support and passion to our organisation over many years. Welcome Hannah Britton, Tim Fitzmaurice and more recently, Catherine Dunn to the Board and look forward to working with everyone as we work towards growing our organisation.

It has been a challenging period but demonstrating commitment, passion and the power of sport keeps us going.

Phil Harper, General Manager



Australian Deaf Games

2024

13-20 January

NEWCASTLE & LAKE MACQUARIE

Achieving Together

WWW.AUSTDEAFGAMES.ORG.AU



STAFF AND MEMBERS

STATE MEMBERS:

- Deaf Sports Recreation Queensland
- Deaf Community and Sport South Australia
- Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria
- Western Australian Deaf Recreation Association
- Deaf Advocacy, Sport and Recreation ACT
- NSW Deaf Sport Committee

NATIONAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- Deaf Football Australia

NATIONAL MEMBERS:

- Deaf Athletics Australia
- Deaf Basketball Australia
- Deaf Bowls Australia
- Deaf Cricket Australia
- Deaf Darts Australia
- Deaf Eight Ball Australia
- Deaf Golf Australia
- Deaf Netball Australia
- Deaf Aquatics Australia
- Deaf Tennis Australia
- Deaf Tenpin Bowling Australia
- Deaf Volleyball Australia
- Deaf Rugby Australia
- Deaf Futsal Australia
- Deaf Touch Football Australia

STAFF MEMBERS:

- Phil Harper – General Manager
- Garry West-Bail – Projects Manager
- Lauren Townsend – Media and Communications Liaison Officer
- Julie Lyons – Sport Development Officer, Deaf Sport & Recreation Queensland
- Jesse Cattach – Sport Development Officer, Deaf Sport & Recreation Victoria (resigned December 2021)
- Lauren Townsend - Sport Development Officer, NSW Deaf Sport
- Alisha Wormald Sport & Community Development Officer, Deaf Sport & Recreation Victoria (started May 2022)
- Simon O'Neill – Manager, AFL Deaf Project Manager (started March 2022, resigned April 2022)
- Shiv Wheeler – Manager, AFL Deaf Project Manager (started May 2022)
- Kielly Ryan – AFL Deaf Project Officer (VIC) (started June 2022)
- Dylan Beasley – AFL Deaf Project Officer (QLD) (started June 2022)
- Calvin Black – work experience student (June 2022)



Image: Julie Lyons - DSRQ Futsal Gala Day

2022 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES COMMITTEE

- Games Organising Committee Co-Chairpersons** - Kate Matairavula and Todd Wright
- Deaf Sports Australia Project Manager** - Garry West-Bail
- Volunteers Co-ordinators** - Claire Dunne and Bridget Nunan
- Social Program** - Jitka Navratil & David Barry Parker
- Sports and Venues** - Sera Bennett
- Registration and website** - Paul Harrison
- Interpreting Co-ordinator** - Kylie Clear
- Ceremonies** - Sue Jo Wright and Salomon Gerber
- Oceania Liaison Officer** - Apenisa Matairavula
- Marketing** - Sam Taylor (placement student from University of Newcastle) with support from Sally Hill (Canvas Events)
- Transport and Logistics** - Neil and Anna Macintosh
- NSW Deaf Sports** - Kimberley Larsen
- Newcastle Council** - Mark Statford
- Lake Macquarie Council** - Jacqui Hemsley

Board Attendance 2021 - 22

Board Member	Number of meetings held	Number of meetings attended
Kathryn O'Brien - Chair	6	6
*Alex Jones – (Resigned November 2021)	4	2
Melinda Vernon – (Elected November 2021)	3	3
Hannah Britton	6	5
Greg Troesdon	6	5
Tracey Corbin - Matchett	6	4
Catherine Dunn – (Appointed May 2022)	1	1
Tim Fitzmaurice	6	6
Katie Kelly OAM – (Resigned November 2021)	4	2

*On special leave

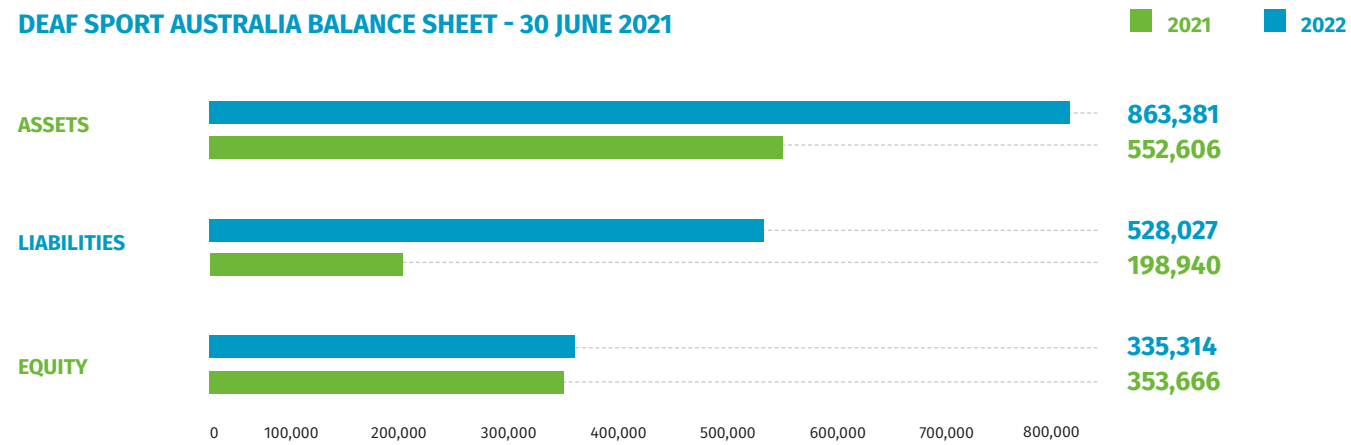


Image: Deaf Sports Australia Board Members

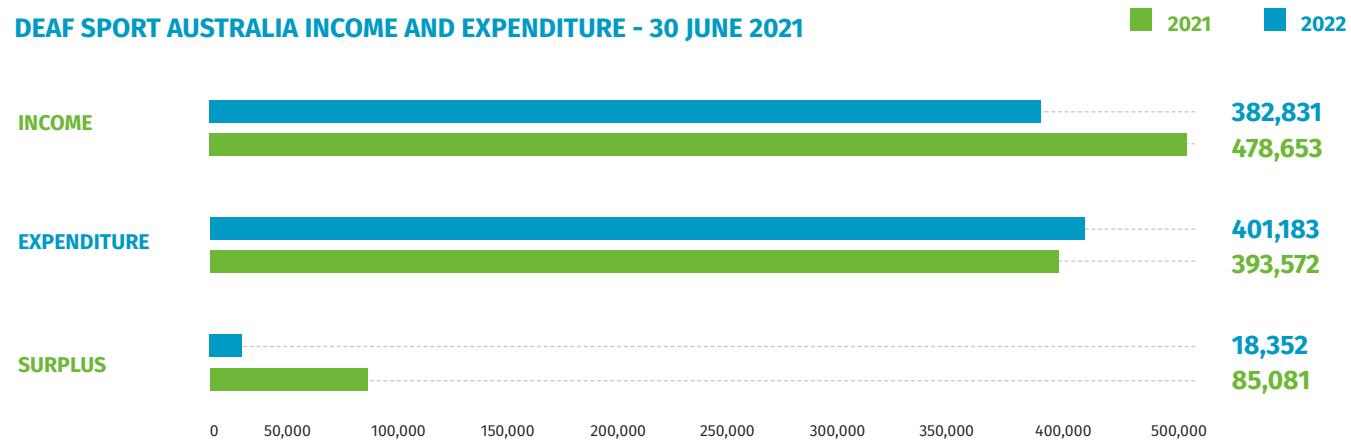


Image: Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub Zumba class

DEAF SPORT AUSTRALIA BALANCE SHEET - 30 JUNE 2021



DEAF SPORT AUSTRALIA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - 30 JUNE 2021

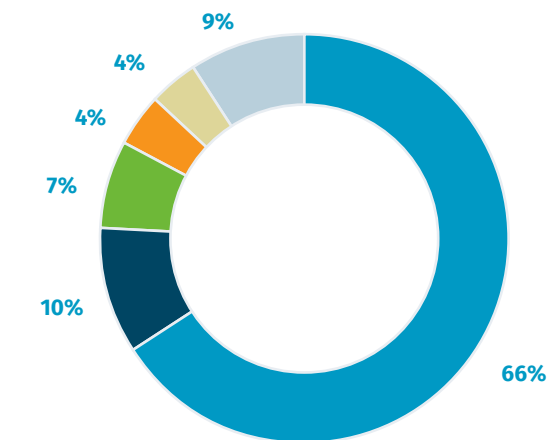


Note: An audited financial statement for the period ending 30 June 2022 has been sent to all DSA members and key stakeholders. If you wish to receive our financial statement for 2021-22, please contact us at info@deafsports.org.au



Image: Australia Open Deaf tennis winners

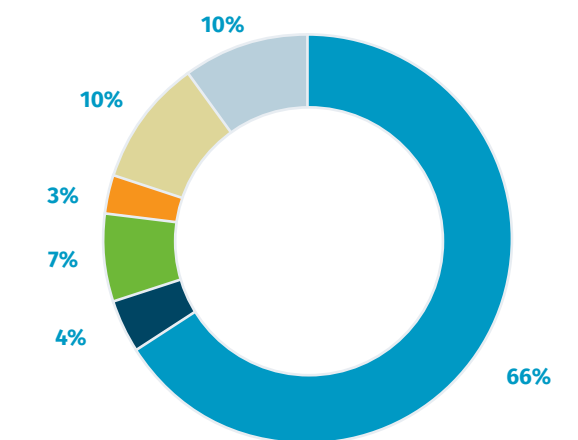
EXPENDITURE PIE CHART 2021



KEY FEATURES

- Staff Costs
- Event Expenses
- Interpreting
- Other
- Travel
- Insurance

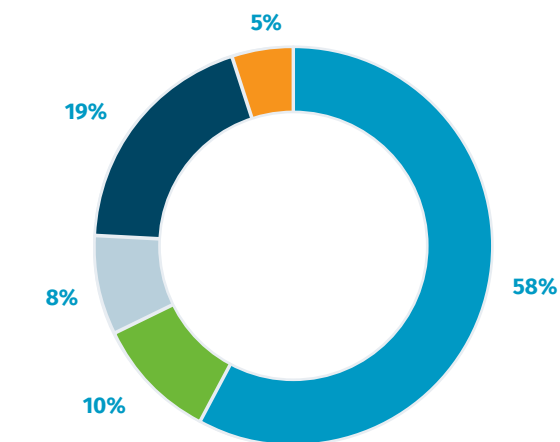
EXPENDITURE PIE CHART 2022



KEY FEATURES

- Staff Costs
- Event Expenses
- Interpreting
- Other
- Travel
- Insurance

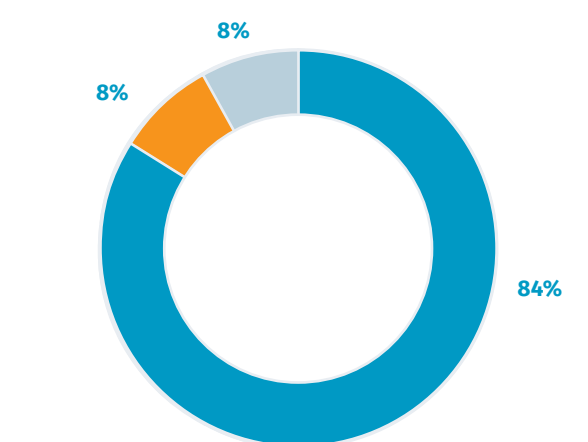
INCOME PIE CHART 2021



KEY FEATURES

- Government (Federal / State) grants
- COVID support funding
- Partnership grants
- Other - donations, Interest, etc
- Event funding - 2022 Australian Deaf Games

INCOME PIE CHART 2022



KEY FEATURES

- Government / Programs grants
- Other - donations, Interest, etc
- Event funding - Government



PARTNERSHIPS
PRINCIPAL PARTNER &
SUPPORTING PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



Department of
**Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**



PARTNERSHIPS
NATIONAL SPORT ORGANISATIONS

2024 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES COMMITTEE
GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNER



CITY PARTNERS



PRINCIPAL GAMES SPONSOR



PRINCIPAL VENUE SPONSOR



PLATINUM CORPORATE SPONSORS



Deaf Sports Australia

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Collingwood. VIC. 3066

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www.deafsports.org.au

