



DEAF AUSTRALIA SPORT ANNUAL REPORT 2023

deafsports.org.au

Image: AFL Deaf Auskick – Perth



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I reflect on the past few years now as President of Deaf Sport Australia (DSA), I am amazed at the resilience of our organisation and deaf and hard of hearing community having battled through a difficult pandemic, funding challenges, sport governance changes and adjusting back to normal 'everyday life.'

I am grateful for the opportunity in the new role I have as President and pleased that the Board, in particular former President, Kathryn Armfield, is supporting me as I learn the tasks and responsibilities this role brings.

To all our stakeholders connected with Deaf Sports Australia (DSA), we thank you for your support, energy and involvement. Our Board, staff, members, volunteers, players, officials, sponsors, family and friends have continued to support us ensure that DSA can effectively deliver services, information and sporting pathways opportunities for our deaf and hard of hearing Australians.

DSA has 15 National Deaf Sport members, 6 State Deaf Sport members, 7 staff, and numerous volunteers working tirelessly to guide active Deaf people into having opportunities. We have worked closely with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), Sports Integrity Australia, various state and federal government organisations, national sport organisations, joined the Australian Sporting Alliance for People with Disabilities (ASAPD) and continued to build our profile as the peak sporting body for deaf and hard of hearing Australians.

We are grateful to ASC and the Victorian, NSW, Queensland and WA governments for their program funding support. This allows us to reach out into local deaf and mainstream programs and support sport participation and awareness.

We received our biggest ever project grant from the ASC to partner with the Australian Football League (AFL) to develop an AFL football program for young deaf and hard of hearing kids through Auskick and for adults through a trial AFL 9's program – this project was unique in being a national focus with programs happening in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. The aim is for the AFL to adopt an AFL Deaf program as part of their ongoing inclusion program.

In 2024, we will reach milestone years for Deaf Sport Australia – 60 years since the Australian Deaf Sports Federation (now DSA) was established and 60 years since our first Australian Deaf Games. We have a lot of

preparation to do to honour these achievements including preparing for the 2024 Australian Deaf Games in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.

The move from 2022 to 2024 to host the Australian Deaf Games (ADG) due to the pandemic has presented challenges, especially trying to re-charge everyone to get back into Games preparation, back into sport and physical activities and build up the Games excitement. We are very grateful to Destinations NSW, both Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Councils, all our sponsors for continuing this journey towards the 2024 Games.

The DSA Board wishes to especially thank the Games Co-Patrons, Katie Kelly and Cindy-Lu Bailey, our co-chairs of the Games Organising Committee, Todd Wright and Kate Matairvula and their team, for their continued commitment and energy for ADG, given they have extended their involvement beyond the normal preparation cycle. Amazing.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge and thank our Board members and staff for their ongoing commitment and generosity. We know you all work and volunteer your time beyond what is normally expected. Special thanks to Kathryn Armfield who will be serving her last year as a Board member and outgoing President. Look forward to learning from you as I move into this new role. We all look forward to continued growth and new initiatives emerging in the year ahead.

**Yours in Deaf Sports,
Hannah Britton - President.**



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

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC), on behalf of the Australian Government, is proud to lead, support and grow Australian sport at all levels.

Our mission is to make Australia stronger through sport, by driving greater involvement, engagement and capability in areas such as volunteering, community coaching and governance.

Our vision in high performance sport is to create sustainable success that inspires all Australians.

Like other sectors, we've faced numerous challenges as a result of a global pandemic, but we've continued to support Australian sport and help it thrive.

It was fantastic to see our athletes perform so brilliantly at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and finish on top of the medal table with 67 gold, cementing our status as the most successful nation in the event's history. The Victoria 2026 Games will be another opportunity to inspire Australians to get involved in sport, and to champion the role sport can play in engaging every Australian.

Connecting grassroots and elite sport is crucial and we are immensely proud of our many programs and initiatives that support this involvement with sport.

Through our Participation Grants, Sporting Schools program, Local Sporting Champions and Local Para Champions program we're helping Australians of all ages and abilities get active and lead happier, healthier lives.

Our Women Leaders in Sport programs provide women with valuable leadership development opportunities on and off the field and has supported more than 26,000 women and 800 sport organisations since 2002.

We're also providing tools that support community sport such as our Australian Sport Learning Centre which delivers centralised world class content to build the learning and development capability of the sector.

Supporting those who support us is also key and our Sport Volunteer Coalition Action Plan outlines a new approach to foster positive, safe and fulfilling experiences for sport volunteers with recent data indicating that sport has lost over 100,000 volunteers in the past few years.

Supporting, celebrating and attracting more volunteers will be central to the success of the Green and Gold decade as we look towards the 2032 Brisbane Games, and beyond.

This is a defining era for Australian sport. In the coming decade Australia, an incredible opportunity to unite, inspire and build Australia through sport. The sporting strategies, programs and facilities we deliver now have the capacity to shape Australia's long-term prosperity, well beyond sporting boundaries.

The AIS leads Australia's high performance sport system and, funded by the Australian Government, is the largest investor in our nation's Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games athletes and sports. This is critical to sustainable success in high performance sport.

The AIS is giving National Sporting Organisations greater certainty over the funding, having already committed funding to sports for the entire 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic cycle. By the end of this year, we'll give the same certainty to our Winter Games team for 2026.

We care about people in sport. We will continue to put our athletes first because we want them to be successful in sport and life.

We provide \$14.6m a year in direct funding to athletes via our dAIS grants, and this is complemented by world-class athlete support in mental health and wellbeing services. As one example, the AIS Mental Health Referral Network received 444 referrals in 2021, a rise of 68 per cent.

Additionally, the AIS is supporting our athletes and sport through innovation and technology, medicine and sport science, wellbeing and community engagement, coaching and leadership, as well as high performance facilities.

The decade ahead is an exciting, pivotal time for our sector and an opportunity to consider the role that each of us can play in making Australia stronger through sport.

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



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The year 2022 – 2023 was a pleasing return to 'normal' sport and management operations although it was still an ongoing challenge to encourage everyone to get back to sport and physical activities after being 'closed down' during the pandemic period.

With the Australian Deaf Games moved to January 2024, this presented both relief and a challenge. Relief in that all our preparation work and funding and sponsor support was not lost as we were able to carry over to 2024. The challenge is that sport preparation and activity had almost stopped due to the date change and we would need to invigorate and encourage the deaf and hard of hearing community to keep up the momentum towards 2024 Games.

Our two major projects, AFL Participation project (national) and Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub Project (Victoria) continued on strongly. This helped support interest in the work DSA was doing and create attention from others who looked to see similar programs happening elsewhere.

Our staff numbers continued to stabilise but there were some changes in personnel. Julie Lyons and Lauren Townsend continuing on as our Sport Development Officers (SDO) for Deaf Sport Recreation Queensland (DSRQ) and NSW Deaf Sport (NSWDS) respectively.

Julie finished her work with DSRQ after 16 amazing years in March 2023 - she helped establish DSRQ and gradually growing the deaf sport program to include annual regional tours across Queensland. Julie became highly respected and dedicated to ensuring a diverse sport and recreation program was provided including sport days, sport camps, deaf awareness programs, school programs and supporting the Deaf Sport clubs. She will be greatly missed but she has left a legacy for her replacement, Nikolas Schlie who started in April 2023. Thank you Julie.

Alisha Wormald continued on for Deaf Sport Recreation Victoria (DSRV) until early 2023 and Tom Dent replaced her in March 2023. Funding to establish a Sport and Community Development Officer in WA well underway with funding received and Adam Barnes appointed in July 2022.

Rosalie Kassulke as our Finance Officer and Garry West-Bail continues to manage our 2024 Australian Deaf Games, both dedicated to their roles. They have all done a great job managing the challenges and determined to maintain and grow their work capacity and outcomes.

Shiv Wheeler continued until December 2022 as Project Manager for our Australian Sport Commission funded AFL Participation project with Kielly Ryan and Dylan Beasley sharing roles AFL Project Officers in Victoria and Queensland respectively. They also finished up in late 2022.

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

1. Sport Development Officers Program

The past year 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. Pushing the 'return to sport' mantra was not easy as our deaf, hard of hearing and wider community became stagnant and so used to an inactive lifestyle due to the COVID restrictions.

Successfully gaining a SDO position in WA to work under DSA and Western Australia Deaf Recreation Association (WADRA) was pleasing for all and funding will become available from July 2022 onwards. The role will enable deaf WADRA to grow and provide a range of sport programs for deaf and hard of hearing community.

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

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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 new and ongoing community and sport engagement activities to off-set COVID-19 pandemic physical activity lethargy;
- 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 including Auslan translated resources;

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.

Alisha Wormald and subsequently Tom Dent 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).

The Change Our Game program to Growing Sport and Recreation participation for deaf and hard of hearing girls and women evolved over time leading to various sport / recreation opportunities as well as linking in with community women's empowerment programs.

Work achievements included:

- Ongoing DSRV member meetings and Victorian team preparation for the 2024 Australian Deaf Games;
- Regular online meetings with SRV;
- Ongoing development and implementation of Sport Integrity Australia National Integrity Framework policies;
- Networking with Basketball Victoria, Football Victoria, Little Athletics, 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;
- Secondary Schools Multi-Sport Day at Melbourne University -130 deaf and hard of hearing students attending;
- Planning for the Primary School Deaf Sports Day in October 2022 for 150 students was eventually washed out due to bad weather (2021 was ambushed by COVID lockdown);
- Supporting Deaf Victoria's 'Sign of the Times' conference which saw over 100 participants involved;
- First ever school holiday program trial with 11 participants;
- Supporting the AFL Deaf Auskick program in Victoria – 25 participants;
- Relationship building with State Sport Organisations;



Our junior Deaf Sport Heroes at the DSRV School Holiday Program



AFL Deaf Auskick – Brisbane

DSA Deaf Sport Awareness Training workshop, AFL Victoria

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

New South Wales

Lauren Townsend's work includes working for and supporting NSW Deaf Sports and supporting NSW Deaf Sports and its affiliated members. We are grateful to the Office of Sport for providing Operational Support funding.

Highlights include:

- Providing Deaf Sports Awareness Training (DSAT) workshops and information sessions to over 50 clients and many students;
- Hosting Deaf Sport Forum with NSW Deaf Sport committee – 70 attendees
- Regular meetings with the NSW Deaf Sport Committee (NSWDS) monthly and Deaf Sport Clubs quarterly;
- Preparing NSW Deaf Sports team for the 2024 Australian Deaf Games, including establishing a State Team Management; and
- Continuously working on the 'Her Sport, Her way' grant project: Deaf Women in cricket - discussions and planning continue with Cricket NSW;
- Networking with Touch Football NSW to discuss awareness, needs of deaf participants in touch football and other related opportunities;
- Participating in Sports NSW forums on governance and networking;
- Facilitated a sports activity hosted by Lion's club for 70 deaf and hard of hearing students
- Continued to support Deaf Sailing NSW development;
- Regional visits to Albury, Wagga, Newcastle and Gosford meeting with local Deaf community, schools and sport organisations
- Facilitated with the NSW Deaf Sport Committee a members forum with 50 people attending
- Attended Office of Sport NSW's Sport Sector Stakeholder Engagement meetings
- Ongoing communication with the Office of Sport NSW.

Queensland

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

Work activity highlights over the last 12 months included:

- Sport Activity program partnership with various organisations;
- Continued a great partnership with Diving Queensland with 15 participants;
- Continued Tennis Talent Development and A 'Come and Try Out' sessions with Tennis Queensland;
- Regional towns visited included Ipswich, Toowoomba, Hervey Bay, Maroochydore and Bundaberg visiting schools, deaf clubs, local Councils and parent groups;
- 97 primary and secondary students attended our Annual Sports (Athletics) day;
- Deaf Sport Awareness Training programs at Kedron, Caboolture and Centenary Heights and Miami High schools;
- Facilitated our annual Deaf Futsal Gala day with 54 students;
- Organising SSP (School Sporting Program) including Beenleigh, Indooroopilly, Kedron and Ipswich Schools;
- Deaf Youth camp on the Gold Coast with 17 participants;
- Caboolture Deaf Facility Active Deaf Kids program and Deaf Awareness Training for 40 students;
- Griffith University "Deaf Awareness" Games day for 80+ students;
- Supporting the AFL Auslan Auskick program over 8 weeks;

Western Australia

Funding from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural industries to employ part time staff to work with Western Australia Deaf Recreation Association (WADRA) and DSA was a big break through. Allows Adam Barnes appointed in the role to two tasks over the next 12 months.

- Support WADRA with community engagement and development
- Support DSA's AFL Auskick project in WA

Acknowledged as a State Sport Association (Disability) allows more opportunity to work with schools with deaf and hard of hearing students, State Sport Organisations, WADRA members and the community to build and establish a strong profile in WA.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

The Auskick program supported by the AFL, WA Football Commission, WADRA, Western Australia Foundation of Deaf Children and Access Plus was a great success (see cover page photo).

2. Projects

Australian Sport Commission (ASC) Participation Grant – AFL project

This project was to finish in December 2022 with a final report presented to the AFL including recommendations for an AFL Deaf pathway as part of the AFL Inclusion program.

The 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.

The summary report provided to ASC and the AFL included recommendations:

Auskick program:

- Participants 5 – 12 years: WA – 25; QLD – 45; VIC – 15 = 85
- Volunteers – 25;
- Families – 200 individuals
- Partners: AFL; AFL Victoria; AFL QLD; WA Football Commission; Deaf Sport Recreation Victoria; Deaf Sport Recreation Queensland; WA Deaf Recreation Association; WA Deaf Children Foundation; Deaf Football Australia; Deaf Football Victoria; Expression Australia; Deaf Connect; Access Plus, Shenton College, South Melbourne Districts FC, City of Port Philip, City of Stonnington.

Building AFL casual workforce capacity (awareness and inclusion training):

- Deaf Sport Awareness Training module refined and available for ongoing AFL. Included Auslan signs for AFL now on DSA website (<https://deafsports.org.au/afl-videos/>)
- Inclusion training Awareness Training participants – 125; AFL staff list – 950 = 1075

AFL Deaf Program:

- Survey conducted with 77 deaf and hard of hearing participants asking questions about AFL participation (player, fan, parent, etc), access, aspirations for change;
- Adaption of AFL Inclusion Rules and Bylaws handbook to fit an AFL Deaf program;
- AFL Deaf 9's round robin event completed on 2nd April 2023 with 33 participants and 15 volunteers;
- Partners: AFL; AFL Victoria; Deaf Sport Recreation Victoria; Deaf Football Australia; Deaf Football Victoria; Expression Australia.

Primary recommendation accepted by the AFL was to transition the project into AFL's Inclusion program to continue an AFL Deaf program including Auskick and AFL 9's for deaf and hard of hearing Australians. Collaboration between the AFL and DSA continued to complete this transition.



AFL Deaf Auskick – Melbourne



AFL Deaf 9's Test Game, Melbourne

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub Project

The Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub project was funded by Access for All Abilities, an initiative of the Victorian Government is 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.

Since starting in May 2022, the project has expanded and consolidated to include programs and opportunities and below are the highlights:

- Collaboration with organisations: DSRV Deaf Sport club members; Deaf Victoria; Casey Deaf Club; Endeavour Hills Neighbourhood Centre; Endeavour Hills Leisure Centre
- Over 470 deaf and hard of hearing participants involved in a wide range of activities in the 12 months.
- 20 volunteers, 15 who are deaf and hard of hearing
- 6 training / learning workshops or centre education classes / experiences including (State Deaf Conference [facilitated by Deaf Victoria], Glass mosaic sessions, NDIS awareness session, etc);
- 5 sport, recreation, leisure activities including Zumba classes, Fitness Classes, Coffee & Chat sessions; monthly Deaf Club meetings and school holiday programs.
- Sport Partners: 4 State Sport Organisations
- Participant surveys showed 80% satisfied or very satisfied with project involvement

Another ongoing grant is being sourced to continue this program and achieve sustainable outcomes for the future.

Many thanks to our partners for their brilliant support in this initiative. The survey responses strongly indicated that the Deaf Hub model is desired and needed. Expression of interest for our project has come from far and wide including interstate.

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) National Integrity Framework (NIF)

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) role is to provide 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 has worked with SIA to ensure we firstly adapt the policies to suit our member base, adopt them at Board level and then conduct education and training for our members. This protects our Board, staff, members and all participants in our programs.

SIA kindly provided funding to translate relevant policies in Auslan and we are currently working with them to create the videos.



DSRV Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub Zumba Class (VIC)

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

3. National Deaf Sport Organisations (NDSO)

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

- Sport Integrity Australia National Integrity Framework policies sharing;
- 2024 Australian Deaf Games information, support and preparation sharing;
- Deaf Tennis Australia - Tennis Australia collaboration work with TA Tournaments for deaf and hard of hearing players and World Championships support);
- Deaf Cricket Australia – ongoing MoU agreement, International competition participation and National Cricket Inclusion Carnival with Cricket Australia;
- Deaf Touch Football liaison with Touch Australia;
- Deaf Volleyball Australia with Volleyball Australia;
- Deaf Football Australia – connecting with Football Australia and international competition participation support (World Championships in Malaysia)
- Deaf Basketball Australia - support in relationship discussion with Basketball Australia and participation in international competitions including hosting Asian Pacific Basketball Championships;
- Deaf lawn Bowls Australia liaison with Bowls Australia and World Bowls (World Championships in Scotland)
- Deaf Golf Australia – 2022 World Deaf Golf Championships participation support and 2024 World Deaf Golf Championships planning (Gold Coast, Qld);
- Deaf Aquatics Australia - support for classifications, new committee development and World Championships support;
- Regular NDSO Networking zoom meetings.

With sport programs opening up and encouragement to get back to sport and physical activity participation, more emphasis has been placed to re-setting and supporting our members with their short and long term goals. A significant focus is now on the forthcoming 2024 Australian Deaf Games, which will provide us with a wonderful return to normality.

4. National Sport Organisations (NSO)

Connecting with NSO's in supporting sport participation and pathway opportunities is a critical role currently to support the 'return to sport' emphasis. 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
- Touch Australia

We are working with them on being actively supporting our 2024 Australian Deaf Games and play a role in assisting with venues, officiating and promoting their sports.



Garry West Bail and Phil Harper at National Sport Convention

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

5. Australian Deaf Games – January 2024

After the decision was made to move the Games to 2024, we had to dig deep to keep the momentum with deaf and hard of hearing sport participation and preparation efforts as there was a natural letdown occurring after the date change.

We were fortunate that our Games partners, Destinations NSW and the two City Council's, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie as well as our major sponsors understood and accepted. We are so grateful for their flexibility and commitment to continue support. In January 2023, we had a one year to go event at Lake Macquarie and everyone was keen to make the event happen.

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 are the key updates:

- 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;

We are excited to celebrate 70 years since Deaf Sport Australia was established (as Australian Federation of Deaf Sport) and 60 years since the first Australian Deaf Games in 1964 (Sydney). Our partnership with Newcastle Library for an exhibition about our Deaf Community, Sport, Heritage, Language and Culture is in serious planning and development. This will be the largest ever exhibition in Australia and we look forward to developing this experience.

We are grateful to the working group (Tony Clews, Julian Walsh, Breda Carty and Phil Harper) as well as the Newcastle Library team planning the exhibition themes and sourcing photos, videos and stories about our Deaf sport and community history. A massive task but exciting to see the new materials we find.

We look forward to once again after six years since the 2018 Games, gathering in one place to celebrate and enjoy sport, culture and community.



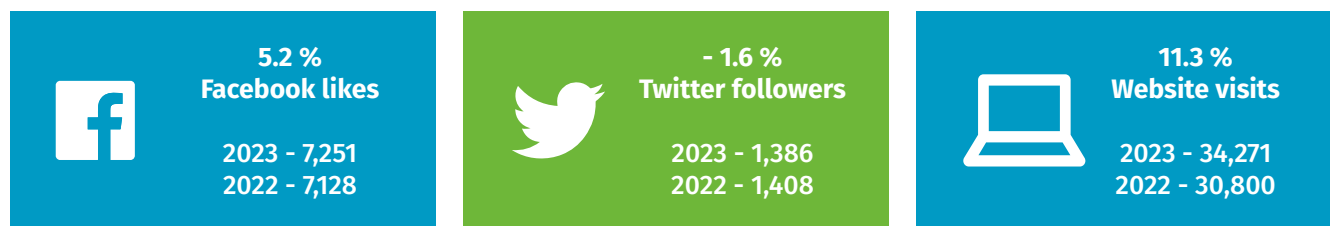
Australian Open 2023 Deaf & Hard of Hearing Championships.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (CONT)

6. Media & Communications

The last 12 months showed a significant increase in our social media and websites work. In our attempt to improve our profile and reach, we broadened our stories and information sharing, linking with our member organisations as well as sharing relevant information from the wider sport community.

Both our DSA and 2024 Australian Deaf Games websites were updated, improving our ability to share information and awareness tools (including Auslan learning). The results have been positive with an 11% increase in website connections.



7. Acknowledgements

Thank you to our wonderful DSA team including:

- SDO staff - Julie Lyons and Nikolas Schlie at DSRQ, Lauren Townsend at NSWDS and Alisha Wormald and Tom Dent at DSRV and Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub project; our Finance Officer, Rosalie Kassulke.
- 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 why DSA exists. We are about providing opportunities and support in sport participation and our members role is crucial to making this happen on grassroots, state, national and international levels.

We could not exist and operate successfully without support from 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 – your role is vital assists us to work towards achieving our goals and strategic targets.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the DSA Directors led by our Presidents, Kate Armfield and Hannah Britton. Kate, thank you for your support and passion for DSA and the Deaf community and Hannah, look forward to working with you in your new role. Exciting to continue working with everyone as we push towards growing our organisation, working to make the 2024 Games a memorable one and expanding our funding and resource base.

As I said in last year's Annual Report – "these last 12 months have been a challenging period but through our endeavours, we demonstrate our commitment, passion and the power of sport keeps us going."

Phil Harper, General Manager



DSA attending ICSD Congress in Vienna, Austria

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 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 Volleyball Australia
Deaf Rugby Australia
Deaf Futsal Australia
Deaf Touch Football Australia

NATIONAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Deaf Football Australia

STAFF MEMBERS:

Phil Harper – General Manager
Garry West-Bail – Projects Manager
Lauren Townsend – Media and Communications Liaison Officer
Rosalie Kassulke – Finance Officer
Julie Lyons - Sport & Community Development Officer, Deaf Sport & Recreation Queensland (resigned March 2023)
Nikolas Schlie Sport & Community Development Officer, Deaf Sport & Recreation Queensland (started April 2023)
Lauren Townsend - Sport Development Officer, NSW Deaf Sport
Alisha Wormald - Sport & Community Development Officer, Deaf Sport & Recreation Victoria (started May 2022, resigned February 2023)
Adam Barnes – Sport and Community Officer, WADRA (started July 2022)
Tom Dent - Sport & Community Development Officer, Deaf Sport & Recreation Victoria (started March 2023)
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)

2024 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES ORGANISING 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

Transport and Logistics - Anna Macintosh

NSW Deaf Sports - Donovan Mulligan

Newcastle Council - Mark Statford

Lake Macquarie Council - Jacqui Hemsley

Achieving Together

13-20 JANUARY 2024

2024 Australian Deaf Games

16 sports and social program where everybody can come together at the Games we love - See you in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie!

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INFO@DEAFSPORTS.ORG.AU

BOOK REGO AND ACCOMMODATION NOW

The Games we love...
Australian Deaf Games
Newcastle & Lake Macquarie
January 2024



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



NSW Deaf Sport Gala Day



DSRQ Active Deaf Schools Program, Queensland



Deaf Start Lights system in use at DSRQ Deaf Sports Day (QLD)



Deaf Sailing Queensland 'Come n' Try' Day



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

BOARD ATTENDANCE 2022 – 2023

Board Member	Number of meetings held	Number of meetings attended
Kathryn O'Brien - Chair resigned as Chair February 2023 Vice President – February 2023 - Present	5	5
Melinda Vernon	5	4
Hannah Britton – elected Chair as of February 2023	5	4
Greg Troesdon	5	3
Tracey Corbin - Matchett	5	3
Catherine Dunn	5	3
Tim Fitzmaurice	5	5



DSA Board members 2022-23



SIGN OF THE
XVI

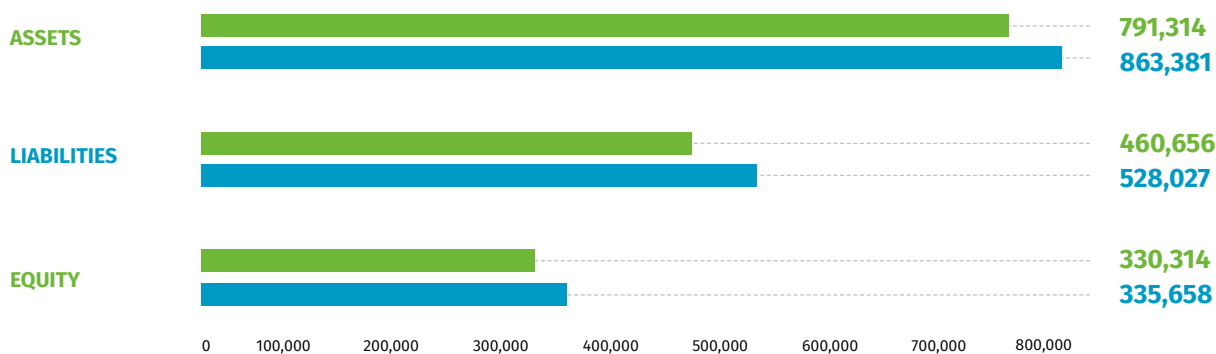
MELBOURNE
POLYTECHNIC

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Deaf Victoria 'Sign of the Times' Conference, Melbourne supported by DSRV

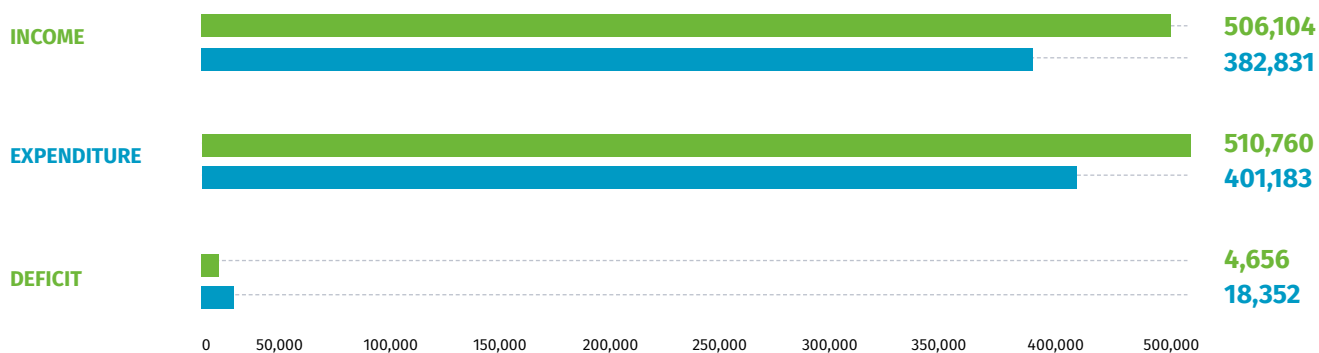
DEAF SPORT AUSTRALIA BALANCE SHEET - 30 JUNE 2023

■ 2023 ■ 2022



DEAF SPORT AUSTRALIA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - 30 JUNE 2023

■ 2023 ■ 2022

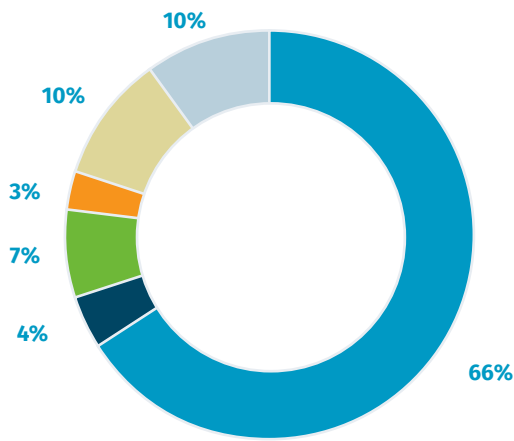


Note: An audited financial statement for the period ending 30 June 2022 has been sent to all DSA members and key stakeholders. If you wish to receive our financial statement for 2021-22, please contact us at info@deafsports.org.au



50 Years Deaf basketball celebration - Members of Australian Team in 1972 and 2022

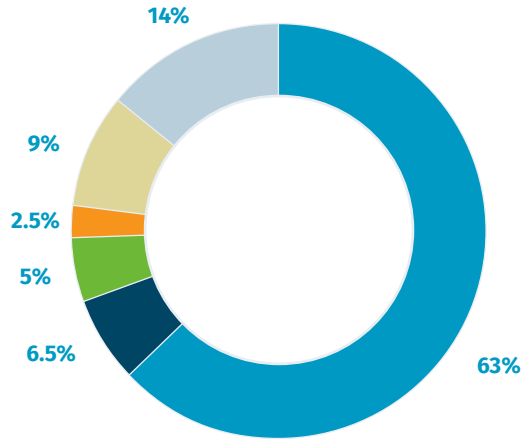
EXPENDITURE PIE CHART 2022



KEY FEATURES

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

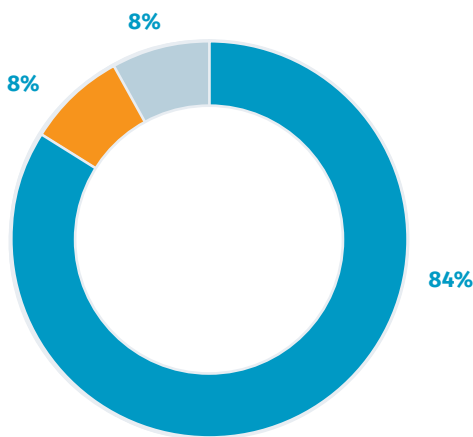
EXPENDITURE PIE CHART 2023



KEY FEATURES

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

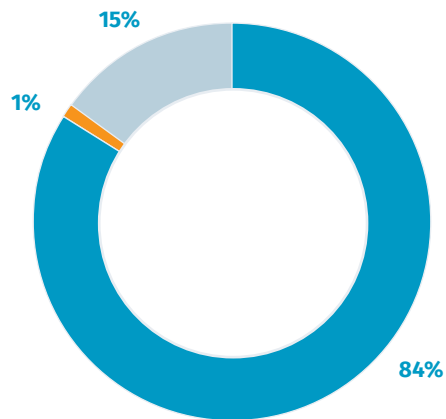
INCOME PIE CHART 2022



KEY FEATURES

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

INCOME PIE CHART 2023



KEY FEATURES

- Government / Programs grants
- Other - donations, Interest, etc
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PARTNERSHIPS

PRINCIPAL PARTNER & SUPPORTING PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



**Access
for All Abilities**



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

6/54 Wellington Street,
Collingwood. VIC. 3066

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