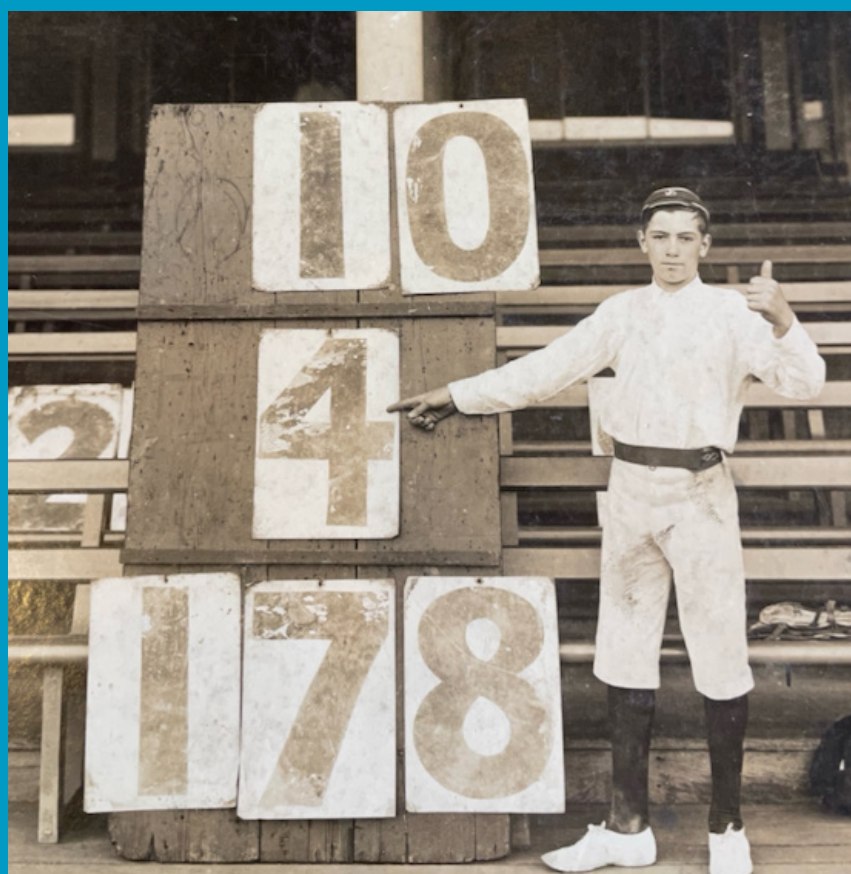


ANNUAL REPORT

DEAF SPORTS
AUSTRALIA



1908 Interstate deaf cricket match with
W. Tyzzer showing the cricket score.



Rugby 7's and Lawn Bowls at our
2024 Australian Deaf Games

2024

DEAFSPORTS.ORG.AU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Time has flown since our last Annual General Meeting in February 2024, where we celebrated the 2022-2023 year. Now, as we reflect on the 2023-2024 period at our November 2024 Annual General Meeting, it's clear how much we've accomplished. Due to the Australian Deaf Games in January 2024, we moved our 2023 Annual General Meeting to earlier in the year and held it online to accommodate everyone's busy schedules.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of my role as President, maintaining a consistent awareness of how our organisation is governed by the Board and managed by our dedicated staff and volunteers. It's gratifying to see positive changes, including extended grants from State governments and success in new project grants. The 2024 Australian Deaf Games were a significant focus, where we worked diligently with the Games Organising Committee and Project Manager, Garry West-Bail, to maximize registration numbers and meet our objectives, despite making a loss for the first time ever.

Emerging from the Covid pandemic and overcoming community physical activity lethargy was a huge challenge. Many major events were either cancelled or saw reduced participation due to readiness issues. However, through concerted efforts from everyone, from the Board to our member organisation committees, we achieved a good result with registration numbers exceeding 900. Well done to everyone! It's also pleasing to see the number of new events and activities that expanded the social and community aspects of our Games.

The Board was thrilled to celebrate our 70th year since the organisation started as the Australian Deaf Sports Federation in 1954, and 60 years since the first Australian Deaf Games in 1964. We created an amazing 'Deaf Sport History' exhibition celebrating 140 years of Deaf sport in Australia, thanks to our small curatorial team and the Newcastle library. It was a wonderful coincidence to have this exhibition in the 'Lovett Gallery' of the Library, featuring our past President and deaf role leader, John Lovett AM.

These events played a significant role in re-energizing our deaf sport community, helping us reconnect and highlight the importance of our culture, history, language, and community connections. The Games and Carnivals of the past have always validated our Deaf Community's strength, pride, and spirit. The 2024 Games reignited that energy, and we are already looking forward to the Games on the Sunshine Coast in 2026.

While these major events were happening, we continued our grassroots work with deaf and hard of hearing children in schools and supported our member organisations with their programs and international sport participation. Two of our Board members, Greg Troedson and Tim Fitzmaurice, volunteered their time to be part of the World Deaf Golf Championship organizing committee on the Gold Coast, Queensland, in September 2024. It's wonderful to see our Board members extending their roles beyond the Board.

I need to express my gratitude to many. DSA has 15 National Deaf Sport members, 6 State Deaf Sport members, 7 staff, and numerous volunteers (including 85 and 50+ interpreters at the Australian Deaf Games) who work tirelessly to make sport and recreation activities happen. Thank you to everyone, especially during this busy 2024 year with preparation and participation efforts at the Games.

We have continued to work closely with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and are excited and committed to ensuring DSA has an effective Play Well implementation plan in 2025 and beyond. We have a lot of work ahead in educating our members about the Play Well strategy and Game Plan awareness over the next 18 months. Sports Integrity Australia has been very supportive of our policy implementation work, ensuring these important policies are accessible in Auslan. Our membership training program on the National Integrity Framework will also be a significant educational effort in the coming period.

To our state and federal government colleagues who have supported us with funding – we could not do our work without your ongoing faith in us. Thank you. Our relationships with many national sport organisations are important, and we aim to grow these as far as possible.

Being a member of the Australian Sporting Alliance for People with Disabilities (ASAPD) has been very positive, working collectively to advocate for better sport inclusion, diversity, and funding opportunities. This helps our work as we continue to build our profile as the peak sporting body for deaf and hard of hearing Australians. We look forward to seeing how this grows and improves our work collectively and individually.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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, ensuring that DSA can effectively deliver services, information, and sporting pathway opportunities for our deaf and hard of hearing Australians.

The DSA Board wishes to especially thank the 2024 Australian Deaf 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, as well as Garry West-Bail (Project Manager), for their tireless commitment and energy in making the Games as wonderful as they were. An outstanding effort, especially considering many had an extended period on the Organising Committee due to the postponement from 2022.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge and thank our Board members, including our two new Board members, Teneale Houghton and Julie Davies, and our staff for their ongoing commitment, generosity, and tireless work efforts. As President, I am more aware of the extraordinary efforts you all put in beyond what is normally expected.

We have an exciting new period ahead where Deaf Sports Australia will grow and change for the better. I look forward to being part of that journey with everyone.

Yours in Deaf Sports, Hannah Britton - President.



‘2024 Australian Deaf Games Sponsors from Convo and Deaf Connect with Sam Cartledge (Victorian team) and Cate Dunn (DSA Board member)’



Well known deaf sportswomen from Victoria – Melissa Anderson and Anne Bremner ‘chatting’ with Jill Lovett at the Deaf Sport History Exhibition

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

I am delighted to have recently commenced as Chair of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and I look forward to continuing the legacy of those that have led the organisation before me.

I know the joy and pride that sport can bring us all, and the opportunities it provides. On the eve of the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics, and eight years out from Brisbane 2032, my vision is for sport to be safe, fair, accessible and inclusive for everyone, with every athlete supported to reach their full potential.

We want to bring out the best in everyone involved in sport because that's how we will become the world's best – by working together and bound by a common purpose.

We encourage and help Australians of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to get involved in sport and we advocate for sport and the positive influence it has on the nation.

Our grant programs support athletes, coaches, officials and organisations, while our Sporting Schools program is helping more children access free and fun sporting opportunities than ever before. More than 9,200 schools are registered with the program and our goal is to reach 32 million participants by Brisbane 2032.

We're now 18 months into Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy which is a united commitment from our Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games sports to 'Win Well' and build sustainable success towards Brisbane 2032 and beyond.

Australia's high performance sport system is more united than ever, working together to deliver the Horizon 1 Win Well Projects which included the landmark Connection to Country Action Plan.

Likewise, work continues to help Australians to 'Play Well' as part of the nation's first codesigned Sport Participation Strategy with a Play Well Leadership Group assembled that will oversee the implementation of the strategy and deliver on its vision that 'everyone has a place in sport'.

We are proud that our Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Campus has been the home of sport in Australia for over 42 years and welcome the \$249.7 million investment announced in the FY2024-25 Federal Budget to upgrade our high performance facilities to ensure they are once again world-leading.

The funding will ensure our athletes have access to the best testing and training facilities available and includes a new multi-story and para-accessible accommodation building and Testing and Training Centre to provide state-of-the-art equipment and support for our athletes' development. An indoor Sport Dome will also provide 24/7 all-weather training facilities for our track and field sports.

I know success will be greatest when every part of the system is able to perform their role at their best, and I look forward to leading the ASC, including in its work towards ensuring there is a lasting legacy for all Australian sports and the community from this green and gold decade - when the eyes of the world will be on Australian athletes, Australian sport and Australian venues.

Kate Jenkins AO





Maggs brothers in form at the Beach Volleyball competition of the 2024 Australian Deaf Games.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The past year was dominated by two events. Our 2024 Australian Deaf Games in January and our 5-month Deaf Sport History exhibition shown in Newcastle. (see page 16 for further details).

Our work both nationally and in 5 States where we now have staff continued to evolve and stabilise, not without various challenges. A significant development that impacts all sport organisations at all levels including Deaf Sports Australia (DSA) was Australian Sport Commission (ASC) decision to launch their Play Well strategy.

The Play Well strategy, after considerable consultation with the sport industry in which we were also involved, aimed to develop and adopt a new national sport participation strategy to 'create sporting environments and experiences, where individuals of all ages, backgrounds, genders and abilities can come together to access the benefits of sport.' You can find an Auslan-translated summary of the Play Well strategy here - <https://deafsports.org.au/play-well/>.

It would also mean that our DSA funding model would be re-assessed and measured to fit our considerable work in supporting and offering sport participation programs and is likely to increase, which is what we have been advocating for over several years. We will learn more in the second half of 2024.

There was movement in our staff team with some new staff joining us as well as some leaving. Adam Barnes who worked with us in WA as Sport Development / Community Project Officer for WADRA left us in February 2024. Andrew Waugh replaced him and started in March 2024 with an expanded role as Project Co-ordinator as we received a project grant from Lotterywest. Nikolas Schlie joined us as Sport Development Officer in Queensland and Monique Beckwith joined us in June 2024 as Community Development Officer in South Australia via a grant from Deaf Connect.

In Victoria, Tom Dent continued his role as Sport Development Officer for Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria (DSRV) and we were able to receive Local History grant to employ Dylan PeterHill as our Digital Archivist one day a week for 10 months researching and digitalising our DSRV and DSA records, which is a crucial task with our large historical records collection. It is a great starting point, but we will need to look for ongoing funding to complete the task. As of June 2024, we still had a vacancy for the Sport Development Officer position in NSW and hoping this would be filled shortly. Due to financial considerations, we decided to put on hold filling the Media and Communications Officer role until we understood our funding position with the ASC later in 2024.

Garry West-Bail continued his dedicated role as Australian Deaf Games Project Manager as did Rosalie Kassulke, our Finance Officer. Both having a very busy year with the 2024 Australian Deaf Games tasks.

Lauren Townsend moved on from her dual roles in Sport Development Officers for NSW Deaf Sport (NSWDS) and Media and Communications Officer and we thank her for helping establish and consolidate our NSW program base and DSA Communications platforms.

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

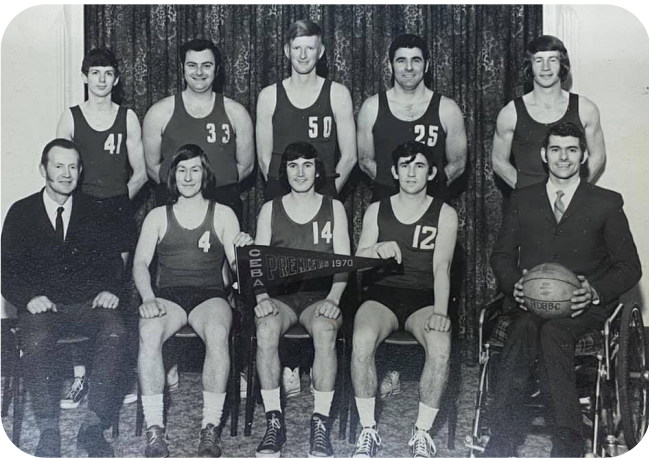
1. Funding and new projects

One of our key jobs is not only manage, maintain and also report on our annual grants but also to seek project grants that enable us to either develop new initiatives or grow the work we do.

In the past year, we have seen new developments which is exciting and also expansion of some annual state government grants moving to 2 or 3 year agreements. This has allowed us more time to focus on building and sustaining our work without having to worry about 'next years' funding questions.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Local History Grant project which allowed us to employ Dylan PeterHill to help start digitalising and recording DSRV and DSA’s vast records including meeting minutes, photos, trophies, notes, media stories, competition records, etc. this project will continue until the end of 2024 but we are keen to seek ongoing grants because we have only scrapped through the ‘tip of the iceberg’ with our history going back to the 1880’s. We wish to gratefully acknowledges the Local History Grants Program and Public Record Office Victoria, supported by the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund;



Victoria Deaf Men’s basketball team, 1970



Victorian Ladies Basketball (netball) team – 1944

Lotterywest Youth Sector scheme provided a grant that allowed us to develop a youth development and wellbeing for young deaf and hard of hearing people in WA. This project focused on encouraging participation in sport, recreation, and physical activity for young deaf and hard of hearing children, teenagers and young adults; supporting pathway opportunities to become involved in WA Deaf Sport clubs, Australian Deaf Games, International Deaf Sport events and also local sport clubs. We were pleased to have Andrew Waugh join us to develop this initiative in WA:

An exciting and break-through initiative in Queensland with a **Project Talent Pathway for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HoH) Queenslanders** grant via the Active Industry Project Fund. This 2-year program will support sport development including encouraging participation in high level sport activities and competitions both in Queensland and internationally. It is the first time a government anywhere in Australia has recognised deaf and hard of hearing athletes need for a high performance pathways program similar to a parasport program already funded by both federal and state governments. This program will start in July 2024:

Monique Beckwith joined us in June 2024 through a grant from Deaf Connect to assist us with re-developing sport and recreation activity options in South Australia. In partnership with a SA-based Working Group, the task was to urgently consult with all stakeholders to create a plan and recommendations for the re-establishment of a Deaf / Hard of Hearing Community Sport and Community organisation. We are working towards to plan to be adopted by the community in late 2024 allowing us to seek state government grants similar to our other state-based programs:

Australian Sport Commission **Coaching Essentials** course for Deaf and hard of hearing current and emerging coaches provided by ASC with support from DSA, WADRA and Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC). DLGSC provided funding to WADRA for access to coaching programs but found that most courses were online. This was a very successful initiative re-working into a weekend program in Perth. ASC are keen to work with DSA to continue this opportunity across Australia.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT (CONT)



Coaching Essentials course in WA

Her Sport, Her Way project funded by the NSW Office of Sport based in NSW which was interrupted by Covid pandemic and other factors finally finished in late 2023 where we were able to help establish interest in cricket as a participation sport for deaf and hard of hearing women and girls and also a deaf women’s cricket team in NSW in readiness for the 2024 National Cricket Inclusion Championship facilitated by Cricket Australia.



NSW Deaf women cricket training session

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT (CONT)

North West Deaf Hub project in Victoria funded by the State Government’s ‘Together More Active’ program over a two-year period which is an extension of our Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub project started in 2022. This is a very exciting development and an indication that the ‘Deaf Hub’ concept is viable, wanted by the community and recognised for its value by the state government;



Water aerobics program at Endeavour Hills Deaf Hub (Victoria)

A **Queensland Gambling Benefit Fund** grant enabled Deaf Sports Recreation Queensland to support the State Deaf Sport clubs with grants to fund equipment for their sport programs as well as offer deaf sport awareness training to State Sport Organisations and local clubs.

The DSA Board and management team decided that we needed to quickly update our membership and database system to assist with better membership administration, understanding our organisation member profiles and have a program online registration system in place for easier oversight and financial management. We agreed to adopt the **Revolutionise Sport** platform for sporting and community organisations. We look forward to utilising this service to our advantage and allowing our staff to focus more on their core tasks.

We thank each of our project funders for their support in these initiatives and hope the project outcomes in some way provide positive impact on deaf sport and recreation options for our community.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT (CONT)

2. Sport Development Officers and Community Development Program

They key tasks of our staff include:

- Continuing to develop our state-based Active Kids Program including working with Australian Sport Commission’s Sporting Schools Program through networking with schools that have deaf and hard of hearing students. Active Deaf Kids programs included in-school sport clinics, school holiday programs, multi-sport or single sport days with multiple schools that also provided wonderful social connections between students from various schools including regional schools, regional school sport sessions, supporting mainstream sport inclusion opportunities, etc.

Some examples of participation levels were outstanding:

- 250 primary aged students attending an athletics day in Victoria
- 90 primary and secondary aged students attending a athletics day in Queensland
- 125 secondary aged students attending a multi-sports day in Victoria
- A sports program held for 75 deaf and hard of hearing students in NSW;
- Sports fun activities provided at Crossing Borders camp for 60 participants in Queensland;
- 5 schools supported in Auskick clinics in Victoria;
- And many more.



DSRV - multi-sports day in Victoria



DSRV - multi-sports day in Victoria. Tennis clinic



DSRQ – School athletics day – demonstration of how the start lights work



DSRQ – School athletics day – Nikolas Schlie with his volunteer team

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT (CONT)



School Holiday programs – Victoria



DSRV supporting a women in sport program with football clinic for deaf / hard of hearing women / girls

- Supporting the State Deaf Sport teams in preparation and participation at the 2024 Australian Deaf Games. Our staff were pivotal in helping encourage participation in the Games, helping grow team participation numbers and sourcing support for sponsorship
- Networking with State Sport Organisations and State Government’s through relationship building, program support, pathway opportunities and deaf awareness training
- Supporting initiatives by National Sport Organisations (NSO) developing inclusion programs or competitions organised by the NSO or by DSA and State members. These included Cricket Australia’s National Cricket Inclusion Championships; the AFL’s Auskick and AFL Deaf 9’s program, Golf Australia’s support for the World Deaf Golf Championships in Queensland in September 2024; and Tennis Australia’s National and State Deaf / hard of Hearing championships and also the Australian Open’s Deaf Competition inviting the top international deaf players. Wonderful to see growth in NSO and deaf sport development and pathway support.



Tennis Australia’s Australian Open’s Deaf Championships



AFL Deaf ‘9’s practice session

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT (CONT)

- Networking with our local Deaf Sport Clubs and supporting them as needed;
- Continuing to improve 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 which you can see on our website - <https://deafsports.org.au/auslan-videos/>;



Australian Sports Commission led ‘Coaching Essentials’ workshop held in Perth for deaf / hard of hearing coaches supported by DSA, WADRA and the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries



An example of one of the 6 policies translated in Auslan

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 Football Australia – connecting with Football Australia and State Football Associations and support for inclusion in the 2023 World Women's Cup competition (Sydney);
- Deaf Basketball Australia - support in relationship discussion with Basketball Australia and participation in international competitions including hosting Asian Pacific Basketball Championships to be held in September 2024;
- Deaf Lawn Bowls Australia liaison with Bowls Australia and World Bowls (World Championships planning in 2027);
- Deaf Golf Australia – working with Golf Australia on 2024 World Deaf Golf Championships planning (Gold Coast, Qld);
- 2024 Australian Deaf Games liaison with the Games Organising Committee and DSA team;
- Regular NDSO Networking zoom meetings.

4. National Sport Organisations (NSO)

Connecting with NSO's over the last 18 months has been critical in working with the ASC in sharing ideas and vision on what the Play Well strategy should include, particularly in the inclusion and diversity space.

Continued advocacy in supporting sport participation and pathway opportunities is a critical role DSA plays to further expand opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing athletes to achieve their goals. Our direct connections with NSO's has grown where discussions 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:

- Athletics Australia
- Basketball Australia
- Tennis Australia
- AFL
- AusCycling
- Touch Football Australia
- Bowls Australia
- Rugby Australia
- Football Australia
- Table Tennis Australia
- Volleyball Australia
- Touch Australia

We are worked closely with them as well as State Sport Organisations on being actively supporting our 2024 Australian Deaf Games sport programs and play a role in assisting with venues, officiating and promoting their sports.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT (CONT)

5. Acknowledgements

As always, thank you to our wonderful DSA team including:

- SDO staff - Nikolas Schlie in Queensland, Tom Dent in Victoria; Lauren Townsend in NSW; Adam Barnes and Andrew Waugh in WA and more recently Monique Beckwith in SA;
- Finance Officer, Rosalie Kassulke who had a hard working year that included the 2024 Australian Deaf Games;
- Dylan PeterHill with our exciting History project in Victoria;
- Garry West-Bail for his excellent work with the Australian Deaf Games project management; and;
- Lauren Townsend for her excellence with our media and communication tasks;

To all our DSA Members who are the reason why DSA exists. Our history goes back 140 years and many of our member organisations evolved over time with the example of Deaf Cricket Australia, initially created from Melbourne Deaf Cricket Club in the 1880’s. 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.

Our sponsors and project grant supporters are an important key to how we are able to achieve our objectives and expand our services. Special thanks to Deaf Connect for their support in multiple programs including our South Australia project, the Australian Deaf Games (both as Principle Games sponsor but also sponsoring our State Deaf teams), Lotterywest (WA), Queensland Gambling Benefit Fund, Hearing Loop, Change our Game (Victoria) and Her Sport / Her Way program (NSW).

Lastly, I would like to thank all the DSA Directors led by our President, Hannah Britton. Exciting to continue working with everyone as we push towards growing our organisation, working to make the 2025 and beyond a period of significant growth supported hopefully by our new Play Well funding.

Phil Harper, General Manager



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 (resigned May 2024)
Rosalie Kassulke – Finance Officer
Nikolas Schlie - Sport & Community Development Officer, Deaf Sport & Recreation Queensland
Lauren Townsend - Sport Development Officer, NSW Deaf Sport (resigned February 2023)
Adam Barnes – Sport and Community Officer, WADRA (resigned December 2023)
Andrew Waugh – Project Co-ordinator, WADRA (started March 2024)
Tom Dent - Sport & Community Development Officer, Deaf Sport & Recreation Victoria
Monique Beckwith – Community Development Officer, DCSSA (started June 2024)
Dylan PeterHill – Deaf Sport History Project Officer, DSRV (started February 2024)

2024 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES

It was six years since the last Games in 2018 – a long wait caused by the Covid – pandemic preventing the planned 2022 Games from happening. Despite the delay and the effort bring our community back into participating in sport and physical activities after Covid-lethargy effects, the 2024 Games, our 19th, ended up being a great success.

It is worth reflecting and reminding ourselves, why we have the Australian Deaf Games.

The aim of the Games is to offer deaf and hard of hearing athletes an opportunity to participate in a national competition format offering:

- opportunities for elite athletes to be selected to attend the international deaf sporting events representing Australia.
- social and friendly matches.
- encouragement of sporting involvement and its benefits to long-term health and well-being;
- competition with and against their peers, role models and to develop or enhance a community connection that is for many life-long lasting;
- a continuance of a great tradition that goes back to the Carnivals that started in the early 1930's and the first Australian Deaf Games held in 1964. and
- sportsmanship and the true spirit of the Games, The Games We Love.

In 2016, DSA signed an agreement with Destination NSW that would see the NSW Government partner with DSA to host the Games in 2018 (Albury / Wodonga) as well as in NSW in 2022. After the completion of the 2018 Games, DSA signed a joint agreement with the Newcastle City and Lake Macquarie City to host the Games in April 2022. With the intervention of the COVID pandemic, the Games was moved to 2024. Fortunately, all sponsors, partners and suppliers committed to the new Games date in January 2024.

The Board of Deaf Sports Australia initially appointed Leonie Jackson as the Chair of the Games Organising Committee (GOC) in 2019 to manage the 2022 Games. Leonie sadly passed away in 2021 and this saw Kate Matairavula and Todd Wright taking over the co – chair roles of the GOC.

The GOC team included:

**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
Alex Nyam and Mark Theodossiou

Interpreting Co-ordinator
Kylie Clear

Ceremonies
Sue Jo Wright and Gareth Kelaart

Oceania Liaison Officer
Apenisa Matairavula

Transport and Logistics
Anna Macintosh

Marketing and Communications
Sally Hill (Canvas Events)

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!

WWW.AUSTDEAFGAMES.ORG.AU
INFO@DEAFSPORTS.ORG.AU

BOOK REGO AND ACCOMMODATION NOW

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





It was critical for the GOC to have a working relationship with DSA Board and staff for resourcing and completing some administrative tasks the GOC could not complete themselves.

They included:

Games Project Manager
Garry West-Bail

DSA General Manager
Phil Harper

Media and Comms Officer
Lauren Townsend

Finance Officer
Rosalie Kassulke



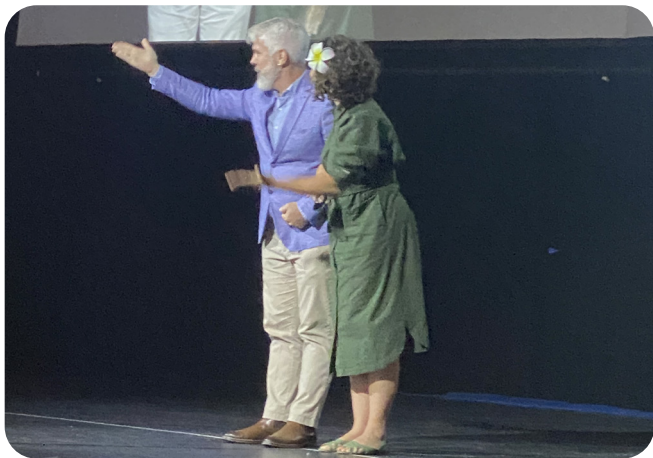
Games Organising Committee team

In early 2020, the DSA Board of Directors and GOC were excited and proud to confirm Cindy Lu Bailey OAM and Katie Kelly OAM PLY as Games Co-Patrons. Both committed themselves to the Games and were able to attend our ceremonies, sport and social several events and functions as well as promoting the Games via their own social communities and platforms. We were able to receive good local media attention for their presence at the Games.

In reviewing the Games from survey and anecdotal feedback from all stakeholders, it was quickly identified that 2024 also had a significant anniversary celebration effect. The Games celebrated the 70th anniversary of Australian Deaf Sports Federation / DSA being formed and the 60th anniversary of the first ADG in its current format occurring in Sydney in 1964.



**Cindy-Lu Fitzpatrick and Katie Kelly
– 2024 ADG Co=Patrons with (Alex Jones – deaf Interpreter)**



**Opening Ceremony (Todd Wright and Kate Matairavula
Co-Chairs of Games Organising Committee)**

2024 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES

In reviewing the Games from survey and anecdotal feedback from all stakeholders, it was quickly identified that 2024 also had a significant anniversary celebration effect. The Games celebrated the 70th anniversary of Australian Deaf Sports Federation / DSA being formed and the 60th anniversary of the first ADG in its current format occurring in Sydney in 1964.

In addition, the proposed first Oceania Deaf Games set for 2024 became part of a merged ADG. In both cases extensive planning was able to occur that enabled very positive outcomes for all.

The Games recognised that our youngest participant of the Games is 10 years old (Chess) and one of our Games' senior athletes, Trevor Boyle (NSW), who competed at his first Games at 14 years old and is now 78 years of age.

Here is snapshot sharing outcomes from the 2024 Games:

911
Participants

(athletes, officials and visitors) from all over Australia, Fiji (42), and New Zealand (30)

85
Volunteers

52
Interpreters

19
Sport Competitions

660
Medals

presented at sporting events across the Hunter region

35
Activities

within the diverse Social Program

470 visitors attending the Deaf Sport History Exhibition at Newcastle Library during the Games week.

There were quite a few 'firsts' achieved at the 2024 Games:

- Surfing and CrossFit enjoyed their first ever competition event at an Australian Deaf Games
- Newcastle Airport providing travellers 'welcome and information' in Auslan on their TV screens;
- Kayo TV via partnership with Bus Stop Films and Jam TV providing 5 minute highlights package nightly on Pay TV during the Games and a larger Games highlights show at the Closing Ceremony.
- The highest ever social media (Facebook / Instagram) impact with 113k visitors and 11k being new to the Games website
- Deaf Sport History exhibition at Newcastle Library

Deaf Sports History Exhibition

The postponement of the ADG to January 2024 meant the Games could celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first ADG in 1964 and 70th anniversary of the creation of DSA. In developing a plan to promote and highlight the anniversaries it was decided to broaden the history to highlight the 140 years of Deaf Sport in Australia.

As the scope of the plan evolved, DSA approached the Newcastle Library (incorporating the Museum) to gauge the willingness to curate an exhibition. The Library team were keen to work with us and were a wonderful guide, mentor and co-developer of the final exhibition material. Working with a dedicated group led by a working group that included Dr. Carty, Julian Walsh, Tony Clews and Phil Harper, the plan emerged into a wonderfully curated exhibition at the Newcastle Library. Deaf Connect provided a significant contribution to the exhibition allowing both Breda Carty and Tony Clews to provide work time supporting the curatorial work, Auslan translation work as well as created a wonderful exhibition booklet that could be enjoyed by both adults and children. A significant coincidence with the exhibition location was access to the Library's Lovett Gallery. Actually, named after a well-known local in Newcastle, the Gallery perfectly linked to our very own John Lovett AM, who was one of the highlight stories of the exhibition.

Titled: **More Than Sport - Culture and Connection in the Deaf and hard of hearing Community**, the exhibition shares stories of Deaf Sports in Australia and on the world stage. Sport has been a key motivator for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing to connect with one another for over 140 years.

Post-script – the exhibition story is now available to view on our website - <https://deafsports.org.au/deaf-sport-history/>



Newcastle Library entrance



Annabel Wolstenhome showing the Exhibition booklet created by Deaf Connect.



Ramas Macrae, Cate Dunn and Cathy Walters enjoying the exhibition



Breda Carty with David and Beth Peters

2024 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES



Jill Lovett with her family and Julie Lyons



VIP event attendees at our Deaf Sport History exhibition

Oceania participation

Over the past few Games, NZ, Fiji and Samoa have been involved and we aimed to expand this to other Oceania countries. Contact was made with the relevant representatives from these countries to promote the Games and invite them to participate. Contact was also made with the Solomon Islands, PNG, Kiribati, Samoa and Timor Leste. Regular meetings were set up via Zoom to check in and encourage them to form teams and seek funding.

Oceania Foundation continued to support us and were successful in obtaining \$10,000 which was used to pay for the accommodation. Unfortunately, with the smaller countries finding it difficult to get local Government and Sport organisation support, Fiji and NZ were the only Oceania countries that were able to send teams with teams of 42 and 30 respectively. Difficulties in our Oceania countries with gaining local funding support to participate impacted on our Australian Deaf Games budget and caused a financial loss beyond our expectations. It is a key learning for the next Games to ensure at any similar financial difficulties are managed well and do not cause a loss.

However, DSA Board decided to sponsor Lucia Rifu, President of Papua New Guinea Association of the Deaf, to attend the Games, and we were able to show her all aspects of the Games and provide an opportunity to experience the Games and know what to expect for the future.

We were pleased that the federal Minister for the Pacific, Pat Conroy was a local member of the region and he visited the rugby 7's competition and had a fruitful meeting with the Fiji Deaf Association President, DSA's Board Vice President and General Manager.

We hope this would be the start of federal government support to foster greater Oceania participation.'

The 19th Australian Deaf Games continued the legacy created at the Albury / Wodonga games whereby staff at the two cities were able to participate in basic Auslan courses and Deaf Awareness Training. Coordinated by the two Councils over a 3-year period (impacted by COVID) staff were invited to the various sessions with these being made open to community organisations associated with the Councils, closer to the commencement of the Games.



Members of the Fiji team at the Touch Football competition

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Lucia (PNG) at Newcastle Airport being welcomed in Auslan



Federal Minister for the Pacific, Pat Conroy attended the Rugby 7's competition with Kate Armfield (DSA Board Vice President), Leonie Tamainai, President, Fiji Association of the Deaf, Lisa Vogel, Rugby 7's Co-ordinator and Phil Harper, DSA General Manager

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2024 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES

Leonie Jackson Community Spirit Award

Leonie Jackson was the initial 2022 GOC chairperson. Having been involved in Games before, Leonie was an ideal person to lead the Games preparations. Unfortunately, Leonie passed away in January 2021.

To honour Leonie’s spirit, Deaf Sports Australia created the inaugural Leonie Jackson Community Spirit Award. The award recognises and honours an exceptional individual who maybe an Australian Deaf Games volunteer, sport participant, official or other who has clearly demonstrated a sense of confidence, wellbeing, caring and responsibility for others that helps achieve positive outcomes.

The initial Leonie Jackson Community Spirit Award was presented to a volunteer, Mark Cullan who worked closely with the Fijian team, highlighting the altruistic nature of members of the Deaf community. We were fortunate to have Leonie’s immediate family present to present the award at the Closing Ceremony.



2024 Australian Deaf Games Leonie Jackson Community Award – Mark Cullan presented with the award by Leonie’s family.

Social Program

The Social Program was packed with action-filled events each day to cater for all kinds of people from children to young adults to older people. 35 different activities , many facilitated by deaf / hard of hearing people, resulted in over 1525 attendees included deaf art, deaf theatre, presentations such as Auslan X, Deaf comedy and storytelling events, Yoga, church services, local excursions, etc. It was a clear indication that the Deaf community thrived on being in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie which became a national ‘Deaf Zone’ for the Games week and provided a massive boost to showcasing our community and culture and an injection of ‘we want more’ – bring on the 2026 Games.



“Kids will be kids” .. great to have them participating at the 2024 Australian Deaf Games.



2024 Australian Deaf Games Swimming competition multi-medallist - Rebekah Fraser WA

Sponsors

The Australian Deaf Games cannot happen without the massive support of our government, corporate and community sponsors. It allowed the GOC to work on a high quality national multi-sport event and ensure all participants enjoyed the experience.

We would sincerely like to thank the following:

- NSW Government (via Destination NSW) - Government Partner)
- Newcastle City Council (City Partner)
- Lake Macquarie City Council (City Partner)
- Deaf Connect – Principle Games Sponsor
- The Wests Group – Principle Venue Sponsor
- Expression Australia - Platinum Corporate Sponsor
- SWS Lawyers - Platinum Corporate Sponsor
- AiMedia - Platinum Corporate Sponsor
- Rehabilitation Specialists - Platinum Corporate Sponsors
- Bus Stop Films - Platinum Corporate Sponsors
- Word of Mouth Technology
- Newcastle Airport
- Kayo / Foxtel / Jam TV
- Convo Australia
- Impact
- Quest Apartments
- Signwave
- Newcastle Car and Truck rental
- Alinta
- GeoSnapShot
- Tobstar

We also had some national or state sport organisations who provided support to specific sport events. They have been acknowledged in our sponsorship information and acknowledgement page on the website -

<https://austdeafgames.org.au/sponsors/>

Games Finance position

The break-even result was disappointing primarily due to lower than originally expected registrations which was impacted initially by Covid pandemic influences and later by cost of living changes, but the success on many other measurables and legacies generated have created a positive and lasting benefit.

Sports program and John M Lovett Cup results

The State Representative team of New South Wales was awarded the biggest award of the Games, the John M. Lovett Cup. This Cup is awarded to a State/Territory team of Australia that has the highest points accumulated from all the eligible sporting events.

Each state/territory were ranked in the following order, with number 1 being first place on the ladder:

1. New South Wales
2. Victoria
3. Queensland
4. South Australia
5. Western Australia

We also announced at the Closing Ceremony, the Games' Team of the Year award was the Victorian Netball team and Games' Athlete of the Year award – Koleta Dravuni from Fiji.

The DSA Board would like to thank the GOC, all our participants, volunteers and sponsors for helping us create a memorable event that raised many benchmarks.

In conclusion, the Australian deaf and hard of hearing community with all the Games stakeholders brought together a wonderful memorable experience for all. As soon as the Games were officially closed, we already had sport participants, sponsors and others lining up for the 2026 Games on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.



**NSW wins the John M. Lovett Trophy narrowly from Victoria
Trophy presented by Jill Lovett to Shirley Lui and Stuart Clear, with Kate Armfield, DSA Vice President**



Lawn Bowls competition participants



Netball competition participants



CrossFit competition participants



Swimming competition participants



Chess competition participants



Darts competition participants



Basketball x competition participants



Stand up paddle competition participants



Futsal competition participants



Golf competition participants



Beach Volleyball competition participants



Rugby 7's competition participants and fans

2024 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES

In conclusion, the Australian deaf and hard of hearing community with all the Games stakeholders brought together a wonderful memorable experience for all. As soon as the Games were officially closed, we already had sport participants, sponsors and others lining up for the 2026 Games on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.



Some of our 85 wonderful volunteers at Games Registration booth, Games Hub in the NEX Centre



Our 2024 GOC team among the Games Closing Ceremony crowd



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



2024 Australian Deaf Games CrossFit competition



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

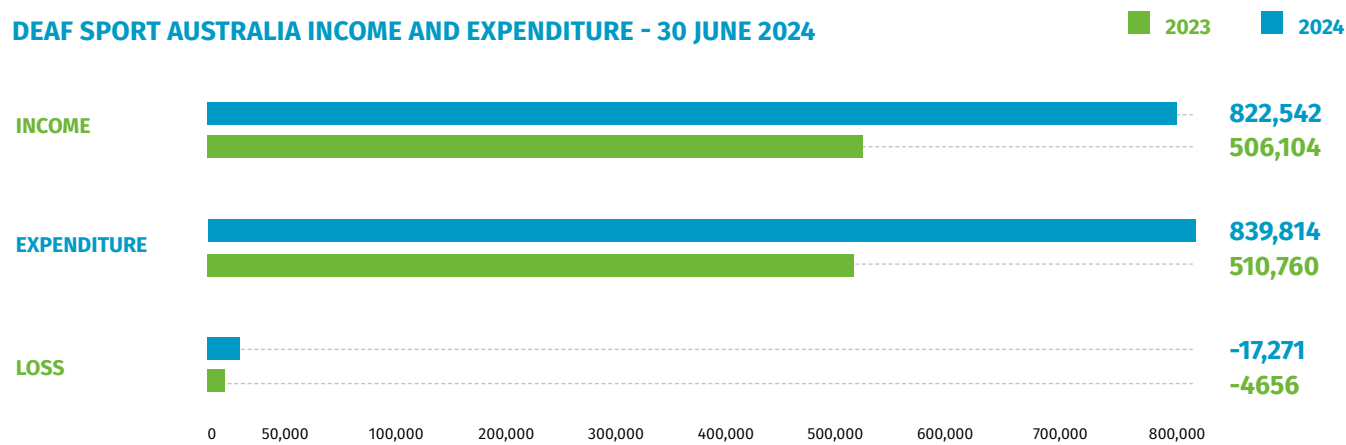
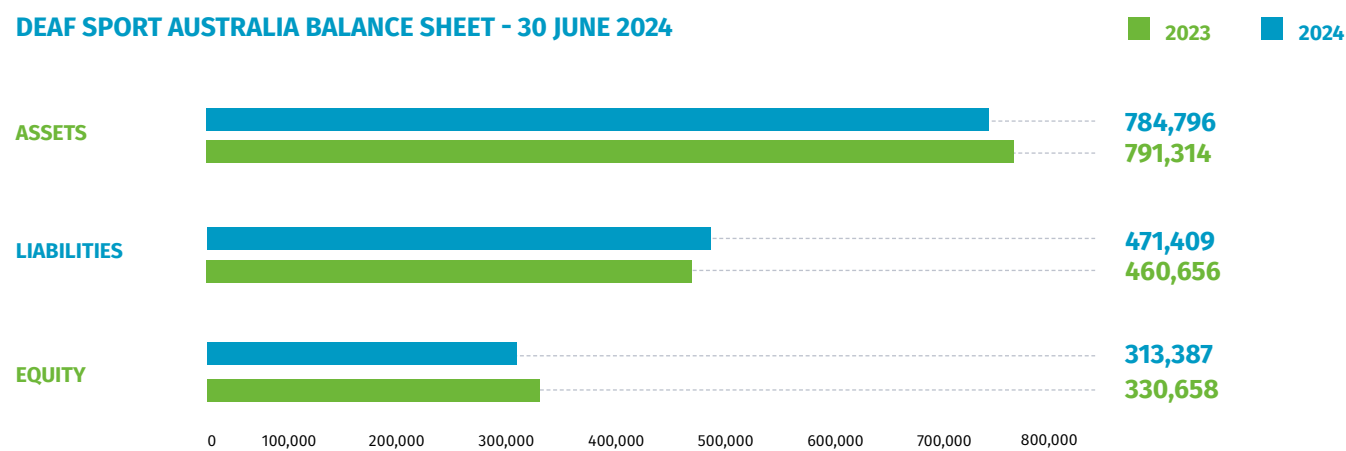
Our Communication

BOARD ATTENDANCE 2023 – 2024

Board Member	Number of meetings held	Number of meetings attended
Hannah Britton President	5	5
Kathryn O'Brien Vice President until February 2024	2	2
Melinda Vernon Sports Participation Director	5	3
Julie Davies Appointed May 2024	1	1
Teneale Houghton – Appointed February 2024 Governance Director	2	2
Greg Troesdon Legal, Governance and Policy Director	5	5
Tracey Corbin - Matchett Resigned May 2024	5	4
Catherine Dunn Government Relations Director	5	4
Tim Fitzmaurice Finance Director	5	5

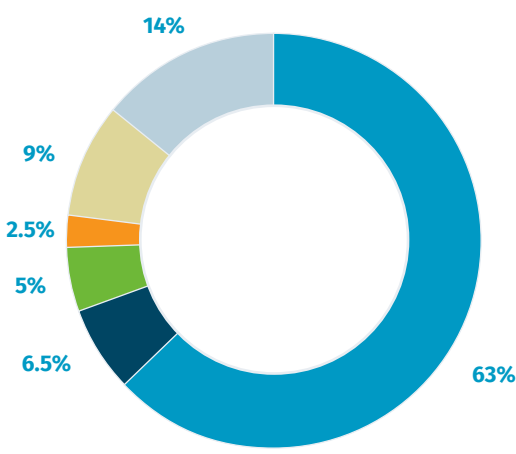


GAMES FINANCE POSITION



Note: An audited financial statement for the period ending 30 June 2024 has been sent to all DSA members and key stakeholders. If you wish to receive our financial statement for 2023-24, please contact us at info@deafsports.org.au

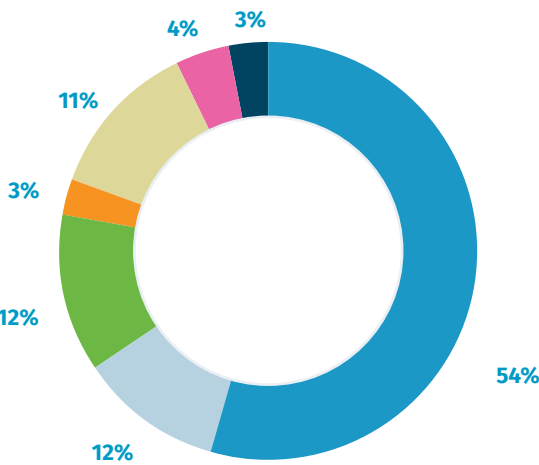
EXPENDITURE PIE CHART 2023



KEY FEATURES

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

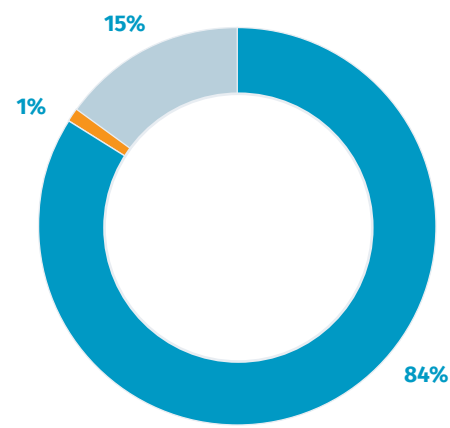
EXPENDITURE PIE CHART 2024



KEY FEATURES

- Staff Costs
- Event Expenses
- Interpreting
- Other
- Travel
- Insurance
- Rent and Storage

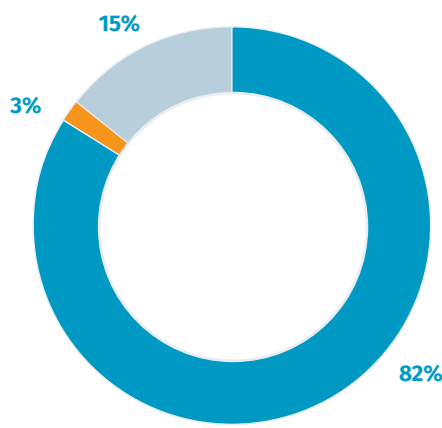
INCOME PIE CHART 2023



KEY FEATURES

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

INCOME PIE CHART 2024

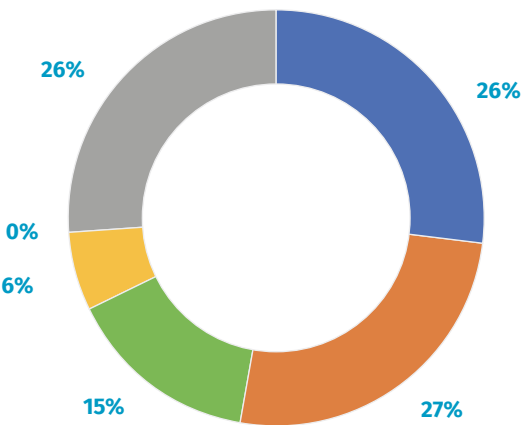


KEY FEATURES

- Government / Programs grants
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2024 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES FINANCE POSITION

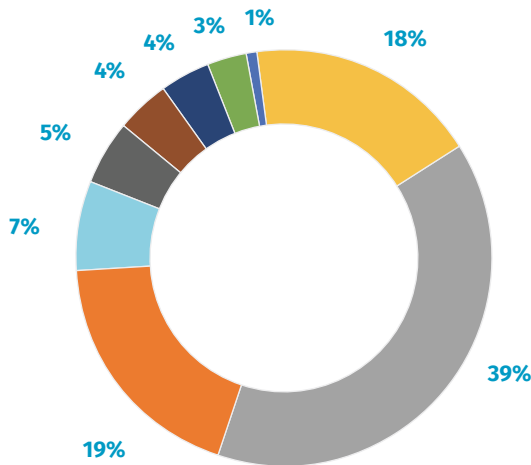
ADG INCOME PIE CHART 2024



KEY FEATURES

- Registration/Sport fees
- Government grants
- Sponsorship funds
- Expo / Merchandise
- Other income
- Donations

ADG EXPENDITURE PIE CHART 2024



KEY FEATURES

- Admin / Office
- Staff / Consultancy
- Events / Venue
- Travel
- Merchandise
- Insurance
- Volunteer
- Interpreting
- Marketing

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



PROJECT PARTNERS



2024 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT PARTNER



CITY PARTNERS



PRINCIPAL GAMES SPONSOR



PRINCIPAL VENUE SPONSOR



PLATINUM CORPORATE SPONSORS



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