Physical Disability Australia Ltd Annual Report 2022-23



PO Box 345 Toowong QLD 4066.

1800 PDA ORG (1800 732 674)

manager@pda.org.au

www.pda.org.au

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President's Report

It is my honour to submit my 2023 report to all the members of Physical Disability Australia (PDA) and the wider disability community. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President and WA State director for the past 12 months.

2023 has been an interesting year, living in a post COVID-19 world, being able to travel and meet up with people all over Australia. I have had the pleasure of travelling to Melbourne for both *Amp'd Up 2023* and the AFDO National Conference. It was great to finally meet up with my Tasmanian and Victorian Board members and to hear from some powerful voices at the AFDO Conference.

We have submitted position statements to many Federal and State Government departments and agencies throughout the year. We have been involved in forums around Housing, Education, Transport and Intersectionality between Disability and Health. Our webinar series throughout the year has been well received and frequented. One was facilitated by Mr Dougie Herd, sharing his thoughts on the NDIS Review and what comes next.

Many of our members made submissions to the Disability Royal Commission over the past 4.5 years, and we now await the Government's response to the Final Report. We will have a lot of work coming through about this and how we, as PDA, can help to shape the future.

PDA's staff have been working very hard in the background keeping the organisation moving forward and financially stable. General Manager, Simon Burchill, has attended many forums, focus groups and strategy meetings, as well as writing some very good submissions, position statements and grant/funding applications. Communications and Engagement Manager, Natasha Nobay, has kept us in the social media spotlight again this year, with her diligence in sourcing relevant and pertinent information and articles to share on all our platforms, as well as keeping the Board on track with blog posts and webinar opportunities. Trish Johnson, our Finance Officer, has held the finances in check and ensures that PDA remains financially viable. Thank you all for your continuing work. It is very much appreciated.

To my Board; volunteers the calibre of yourselves, are very difficult to find. You put your hands up for webinars, forums, policy statements, submissions, blog posts and the myriad of other things that keep the organisation going. Your expertise and knowledge of issues and challenges that our community faces is mind boggling. PDA would exist without you, BUT, I guarantee you, that PDA is a better place because of you.

Finally, to our Patron, Dr Dinesh Palipana. Thank you for ongoing support and wisdom. We are honoured to have you as our patron, and we look forward to working alongside you for the betterment of all our community into the future.

Physical Disability Australia is run by, and for, people with physical disability. Our work is extremely important in the disability landscape, and we are always looking for input as to what you, our community, would like to highlight. As the old saying goes, *Nothing About Us, Without Us*, so please, let us know if there is anything we can do to help you.

Andrew Fairbairn, President and WA Director

General Manager's Report

2022-23 has been another eventful year for Physical Disability Australia (PDA), our partner organisations in the Disability Australia National Peaks Consortium and Australians with disability.

With increased demand from the Australian Government, PDA has needed to conduct more member consultations and attend more meetings in its quest to improve the lives of all Australians with physical disability. Here are some of our successes in the 2022-23 Financial Year.

Submissions to Government Consultations

My work has involved many meetings with government agencies and their consultants. Of particular note in 2022-23 were those regarding the Independent National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Review where we made formal submissions about their *Participant Safety Proposals Paper* and *What We Have Heard Report*. We also provided written advice about the NDIS Annual Pricing Review, the Government's Bill to repeal the *Disability Services Act 2006* and replace it with a new *Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2024*, and the draft Disability Employment Services (DES) Quality Framework. All these documents and more are now available on the PDA website's 'Projects' page.

With the additional funding PDA will receive in the 2023-24 financial year we will be working even harder to make sure *all* Australian Government policies and programs are informed about the access and support needs of Australians living with physical disability.

NDIS Consultation Activities

As in previous years, I have continued to represent PDA in quarterly Disability Representative and Carer Organisations (DRCO) Forums where sector representatives get the chance to meet and interact with senior NDIS employees including CEO, Rebecca Falkingham, and her Deputy CEOs.

The DRCO Forums provide my colleagues and I with updates on new NDIS initiatives and give us a chance to provide feedback on how they might better assist our members. The most significant of these with regard to participants with physical disability is PACE, the new computer system the NDIS will use to record all information about participants and their plans going forward. If this is done right, all participants will get the supports they need approved and funded with much less red tape. If it does not work well for our members and other participants with physical disability, rest assured, I will be at future DRCO Forums (and many other meetings) to lobby for changes!

NDIS Reform for Outcomes Program

When the Albanese Government delivered its first budget on 9 May 2023, they declared an 'aspirational' goal of reducing the NDIS' growing costs to not more than 8% per year. This goal is something that the Independent NDIS Review's recommendations (due for consideration by Government in December 2023) are expected to realise, and this goal is also something the NDIS is expected to work towards in a range of codesign projects called the Reform for Outcomes Program.

PDA is involved in this work through my membership in the 'Evidence Based Supports' Working Group where I contribute ideas on how to inform NDIS participants about the supports available to them so they can select the staff, therapists and equipment that best meets their needs. If this is realised (along with changes to the NDIS supports pricing arrangements), PDA members and all other NDIS participants should be able to get the supports they need without having to pay

the so-called 'NDIS levy'. I have attended several working group meetings in 2023 and these will continue into 2024.

Working with the Disability Royal Commission

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation has continued to provide a grant to PDA (through our membership with the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations - AFDO) to work with them in promoting their work and encouraging people with disabilities to provide information. I have also been attending quarterly meetings with senior employees of the Royal Commission to get updates on what is happening and provide feedback.

On 28 September, the Royal Commission's final report was handed down with 222 recommendations on how to improve laws, policies, structures, and practices to ensure a more inclusive and just society that supports the independence of people with disability and their right to live free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. We will be working hard with our Disability Australia National Peaks Consortium partner to encourage the Government to implement these recommendations as soon as possible.

Financial Performance

During the 2022-23 financial year, I have been working particularly hard to secure as much of the Government's doubling of Disability Representative Organisation (DRO) Program funding and as a result of our submission we will be receiving more than \$440,000 for our participation in the DRO Program through to July 2024. On top of this, we also expect to receive around \$90,000 from the NDIS for providing advice in consultations and being a codesign partner in the Reform for Outcomes Program.

From July 2024, funding for the DRO Program is contingent on a new grant process in which PDA will submit an application for funding in its own right as well as being part of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations' (AFDO's) consortium-based bid.

It is very refreshing to be able to complete this report from a position of financial security.

In Conclusion

In 2022-23 I have been privileged to have the assistance and support of a very well informed and capable Board of Directors and Associate Directors. We continue to be well represented in all states and territories which is something few nationally based peak organisations can boast. I am particularly grateful to Rob Wise and Mark Pietsch for their work in keeping the website fresh and to the Executive – Andrew Fairbairn, Talia Spooner-Stewart, Tim Harte, and Sharon Boyce – for their leadership and supervision in a year of increased demand for our advice and expertise.

And, of course, I need to thank our Communication and Engagement Manager, Natasha Nobay, Finance Officer, Trish Johnson, and all the other Directors and Associate Directors for their efforts.

I trust all our members will enjoy a happy holiday season and that 2024 is a year that sees PDA reach new heights in growth, engagement and representation for all Australians living with Physical Disability!

Simon Burchill General Manager

Communications and Engagement Manager's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present the Communications and Engagement Manager's Report.

This year the Physical Disability Australia (PDA) team worked hard to address issues of concern and importance to Australia's disability community and to support and engage our members.

Webinars and Discussion Meetings

This year we ran a number of webinars and discussions that explored and delivered information on key subjects affecting both members and the wider physical disability community. These presentations were well attended and continue to be accessed via PDA's YouTube channel. Thank you to all of you who attended, watched recordings, suggested webinar topics and been supportive of our efforts. Also, a big thank you to those of you who have filled in our webinar surveys and provided feedback. Information shared in this way will enable us to continue to present future webinars, so we ask you to please take part in these surveys if you attend a live presentation or watch one of our recorded webinars. Links to the webinar and meeting recordings are posted on all our social media channels and links to the short survey are included in the video descriptions. We encourage you to fill in these short surveys for all webinars and recordings that you access. I am very grateful to our volunteer webinar presenters and panelists for providing their expertise, time and experiences. Without their involvement and commitment, these events would not have occurred nor be accessible to all who could not attend.

Zoom Social Hours

Our monthly online Social Hour catchups continued to grow in popularity during 2023. Started during the COVID-19 lockdowns to provide friendship, support, contact, community and belonging to our members, they have also provided opportunities to have a great laugh and some fun. These will continue to occur on the first Monday of every month at 6pm Australian Eastern Time, with links to register your interest in attending being shared via our social media feeds.

Social Media Follower and Engagement Growth

It's been wonderful to see PDA's social media presence continue to grow in strength and impact over 2023. Along with our Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter accounts, we've now added Threads to our stable of platforms and are in the midst of revamping our website with the assistance of Board members Robert Wise and Mark Pietsch. Their voluntary involvement is very much appreciated and helps our online presence and visibility. Our social media and website content is the key mechanism by which we build membership numbers and increase PDA's brand awareness. It helps to drive focus and awareness not just of the organisation, but also of disability issues and events of importance and interest to the wider public.

We are very fortunate to have many members who play active roles in sharing news, articles and posts to our Facebook Discussion Group. Some of these contributors also provide pieces for our website blog. We appreciate this involvement and thank those of you for your part in growing our organisation in this way.

In analysis of our social media platform growth for 2023, it is worth emphasising that increases in follower and engagement numbers have been solely achieved organically. We have not paid for any advertising or post promotion services. The growth statistics for 2023 are:

- Official Facebook page like count +7.9% follower count +7.1%;
- Facebook Discussion Group membership +31.1%;
- Youth Network Facebook Group membership +4 (to 33)
- Corporate page follower count +28.4%;
- Official Instagram page follower count +15.9%
- Youth Network Instagram follower count +14.9%
- Official X (Twitter) feed follower count 7.6%
- Official Threads feed now at 125 (created July, 2023)
- Official YouTube channel now has 52 subscribers, 33 videos that have collectively been watched 6,080 times

Membership

Over the past year PDA has welcomed 79 new members bringing our total to 1,252. This growth (6.7%) is mostly through word of mouth and our social media presence. We recognise and thank those of you who have played a role in this increase in membership numbers – whether through sharing posts or encouraging others to join PDA.

Physical Disability Awareness Day

On 5 February 2023, we celebrated the inaugural Physical Disability Awareness Day with an online *DisabiliTEA* event attended by PDA Members, politicians and the general public. This fun introduction of what we hope will become a special day each year resulted in a number of national and international individuals and organisations reaching out to us to show interest in being involved moving forwards. We plan to have more Physical Disability Awareness Day *DisabiliTEA*s and other exciting events in the years to come.

Thank You!

I am truly appreciative of the support I receive from the PDA Board and its members in my role as PDA's Communications and Engagement Manager. Thank you to all who give me the opportunity to be involved in an organisation that is so welcoming, supportive, truly inclusive and built on community.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, healthy, successful and beautifully memorable festive season and 2024.

Natasha Nobay

Communications and Engagement Manager

Treasurer's Report

Income

In the 2022-23 financial year, Physical Disability Australia's (PDA's) total income (\$305,682) was more than twice that of the previous year's total (\$129,463). This this is a great result that left the organisation with a very healthy balance sheet.

In addition to continued funding from the recently concluded Commission into Violence Abuse Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (\$48,500), we received boosted funding from the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) (\$199,769 as our share of the Federal Government's DRO funding and their ILC grants), and \$37,320 from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) for participating in their engagement and codesign activities.

In the 2023-24 financial year, PDA is expecting income to grow significantly due to increased grant funding to the DRO Program and the NDIA for remuneration in return for our participation in an increasing number of engagement and consultation programs.

Expenditure

The major items of expenditure in the last financial year were:

- Wages and superannuation (\$146,572) to employ the PDA General Manager, Simon Burchill, for 20 hours per week, Promotion Officer Natasha Nobay for 20-15 hours per week, and Finance Officer, Trish Johnson, for 12 hours per week;
- Computer software subscriptions and website maintenance costs (\$10,491) to provide the tools our employees need;
- Travel expenses and conference costs (\$5,981) to attend some government consultation meetings;
- Printing and postage (\$1,473) to provide paper copies of the PDA Newsletters to members without email addresses.

In summary, PDA had an operating surplus of \$125,844 for the 2022-23 financial year and the organisation had \$211,032 in available cash reserves on 1 July 2022.

Many thanks go to our General Manager, Simon Burchill and Finance Officer, Trish Johnson for their work in managing PDA's finances on a day-to-day basis.

Tim Harte

Tim Harte

Treasurer

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Profit and Loss

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Gross Profit	-	-
Other Income		
AFDO - The Disability and Career Service Improvement and Sector Support Activity: DRO	162,648	45,553
AFDO - ILC - Individual Capacity Building Grant	26,921	26,921
AFDO - Disability Royal Commission Grant	48,500	48,500
AFDO - ICB EVENTS	10,200	-
AFDO-NDIS Jobs & Markets Fund	-	5,000
Disability Advocacy Network Australia Inc (DANA)	9,800	2,250
NDIS Income	37,320	540
PDA Focus Group	9,718	-
Donations Received	22	-
Donations - Paypal	488	609
Interest Income	65	90
Total Other Income	305,682	129,463
Operating Expenses		
Advertising & Promotions	-	584
Auditing and Accounting	700	700
Bank Fees	62	122
Computer Software etc	3,145	2,212
Depreciation - P&E Immediate Write-off	-	1,816
Fees - Transaction Fees	34	-
Fees - Xero Subscription	-	789
General Expenses	209	1,125
Insurance	3,768	3,282
Members/Promotions	2,986	1,381
Office Expenses	-	101
Postage & Office Expenses	1,473	3,412
Repairs and Maintenance	-	226
Subcontractors	12,246	1,000
Subscriptions	-	2,033
Telephone	1,297	1,621
Training	-	227
Travel - National	5,981	1,223
Wages - Employees	131,759	133,709
Wages - Superannuation	13,592	13,352
Wages - Workers Compensation	1,221	1,518
Website Development & Management	1,365	2,818
Total Operating Expenses	179,839	173,251
Net Profit	125,844	(43,789)

PDA is a member of the Disability Australia National Peaks Consortium

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E | manager@pda.org.au

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Balance Sheet

Physical Disability Australia Ltd

As at 30 June 2023

	30 JUN 2023
Assets	
Bank	
Bendigo Everyday Acc 120469325	83.69
Bendigo Funding Acc. 137580866	211,093.26
Bendigo M/card 700576739	2,207.91
Term Deposit - 168958734	30,584.69
AUD PayPal	1,353.77
Total Bank	245,323.32
Total Assets	245,323.32
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
GST Clearing Account	25,391.00
Provision for Annual Leave	3,522.50
Provision for LSL	2,248.42
Superannuation Payable	3,128.97
Total Current Liabilities	34,290.89
Total Liabilities	34,290.89
Net Assets	211,032.43
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	125,843.79
Retained Earnings	85,188.64
Total Equity	211,032.43

Brady Nominees Pty Limited ABN: 49 001 320 609

WINGHAM ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Public Accountants Registered Tax Agents Registered Company Auditors Licenced to give Self Managed Superannuation advice



52 BENT STREET, WINGHAM 2429

Phone: (02) 6553 5666 Fax: (02) 6557 0057 Email: warwickg@wingham.biz

PHYSICAL DISABILITY AUSTRALIA LTD INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

SCOPE

I have audited the attached special purpose Statements of Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet of the Physical Disability Australia Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2023. The Directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Statements and the information contained therein and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. An independent audit of the Statements has been conducted in order to express an opinion on them to the members.

The Financial Statements have been prepared for distribution to members so as to fulfil the Directors' financial Reporting obligations. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report, or on the statements to which it relates, to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with normal auditing standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the Statements are free of material misstatement. Audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosure in the Statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates.

The procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the Statements present a view of the organisation which is consistent with my understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations.

LIMITATION OF SCOPE

As an audit procedure, it was not practical to extend the examination of income items beyond the accounting for amounts received as shown by the books and records of the organisation. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion the financial report of Physical Disability Australia Ltd presents fairly in all material aspects the financial position of Physical Disability Australia Ltd as of 30 June 2023 of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies.

The accounts and associated records have been properly kept during that year in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Regulations.

WARWICK GOOGH

Company Auditor Registered under the Companies (New South Wales) Code

(Sub-section 18(5))

WINGHAM ACCOUNTING SERVICES 52 BENT STREET WINGHAM NSW 2429

6th November 2023

Minutes from 19 November 2022 Physical Disability Australia (PDA) Annual General Meeting

Meeting opened at 3:00pm AEDT

Introductory Matters

Attendees: Andrew Fairbairn (WA- President), Talia Spooner-Stewart (ACT - Vice President), Sharon Boyce (QLD - Vice President), Tim Harte (VIC - Treasurer), Melanie Hawkes (WA), Robert Wise (VIC), Laura Scurr (QLD), Mark Pietsch (NSW), Nick Schumi (SA), Fran Vicary (QLD), Norma Seip (VIC), Jonathan Shar (NSW), Trevor Jones (WA), Kerrie Duff (WA), Peter Simpson (NSW), Jen Hamilton (NSW), Ali Suleiman (NSW), Kerry Allan (WA), Annette Lawrence (VIC), Mark Kunach (NSW), Tammy Milne (TAS), Kumaresh Siva (NSW), Simon Burchill (General Manager), Natasha Nobay (Communication and Engagement Manager).

Apologies: Sarah Styles (QLD), Trish Johnson (Finance Officer).

Proxies: None received.

Declaration of Quorum: There being 21 PDA full members present at the start of the meeting, quorum was confirmed.

Traditional Welcome

PDA acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands in which we dwell and pays its respects to elders past and present. We also acknowledge people with disability, past and present, those who are living full and complete lives and those who have needs that are not yet being met. We ask you to reflect on this and to work with us to bring about the changes that will give ALL people with disability an opportunity to live their best lives.

Passing of Members

Andrew noted the passing of John Moxon, the founding PDA president and Janiene Neu.

Minutes of 2021 AGM

The minutes of the 27 November AGM were bought to the meeting's attention and attendees were asked if any corrections were needed. None were requested.

Motion: That the Minutes of the 2021 PDA AGM be approved.

Proposer: Jonathan Shar (NSW)

Seconder: Talia Spooner-Stewart (ACT)

President's Report

Andrew Fairbairn noted that PDA's employees and Board had been working well together to make many submissions to the Australian and jurisdictional governments. He identified the Zoom Social Hours each month as a key mechanism by which PDA understood what was happening around the country and that this information contributed to the organisation's formal submissions. Andrew called on all PDA members to assist in contributing in years to come.

Andrew also noted the great promotional work being done by Dr Dinesh Palipana who always takes the time to mention PDA and the work it does on behalf of people with physical disability.

In closing, Andrew thanked PDA's employees – Simon Burchill, Natasha Nobay, and Trish Johnson – for the efforts they put in keeping PDA engaged, solvent and operational.

Motion: That the President's Report be accepted

<u>Proposer:</u> Melanie Hawkes (WA) <u>Seconder:</u> Trevor Jones (NSW)

General Manager's Report

Simon Burchill agreed with Andrew Fairbairn that it had been a very busy year for PDA. He highlighted a number of submissions he had written for government consultations and other engagement requests. In addition, Simon noted that he had been involved in:

- Many meetings with government around the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of lockdowns on people with disability;
- Participating in codesign activities with the NDIS particularly with regard to information gathering for access and planning;
- Promoting the work of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability with social media posts and a dedicated page on the PDA website; and
- Getting PDA's Self-Management website (ndisselfmanagement.com.au) published.

Simon also drew the meeting's attention to the fact that PDA remains a significantly underfunded representative organisation for people with disability in comparison with some of our partner organisations and he looked forward to the new federal government's promise to double Disability Representative Organisation funding being fulfilled.

In closing Simon thanked, Natasha Nobay and Trish Johnson, his fellow employees, and the PDA Team of Directors and Associate Directors for assisting his work.

Motion: That the General Manager's report be accepted

<u>Proposer:</u> Sharon Boyce (QLD) <u>Seconded:</u> Annette Lawrence (VIC)

Communication and Engagement Manager's Report

Natasha Nobay also noted that it had been an eventful year. She highlighted her enjoyment working for PDA, especially the monthly Social Hours that have grown in participant numbers over the past year. Natasha also highlighted the consistent growth in follower numbers in all the organisation's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn).

Natasha also pointed out that PDA's webinars had been particularly successful in attracting member engagement. She thanked the Board members who had stepped up to run them and encouraged all members to contact her if they would like to be involved.

Motion: That the Communication and Engagement Manager's Report be accepted

<u>Proposer:</u> Talia Spooner-Stewart (ACT)

Seconded: Laura Scurr (QLD)

Treasurer's Report

Tim referred attendees to the written report noting in the conclusion that although there was an operating deficit, the cash accounting method means the organisational financial position may seem that it is worse than it actually is.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report and Financial Statements be accepted.

<u>Proposer:</u> Nick Schumi (SA) <u>Seconder:</u> Jonathan Shar (NSW)

Appointment / Election of Directors and Associate Directors

Simon Burchill noted that he was the designated Returning Officer for General Meetings.

The 3-year directorship terms of Andrew Fairbairn (WA) and Nick Schumi (SA) have expired. Both Directors were eligible for re-election.

PDA received nomination forms from Andrew Fairbairn (WA) Nick Schumi (SA) for extensions of their roles and no other forms were received by the designated closing date and so they were re-appointed for three-year terms from 2023-26.

Constitutional Amendment

Andrew advised the meeting that the Board of Directors was proposing that the PDA Constitution be amended to acknowledge and define the role of 'Associate Director' and document the processes for their appointment and removal.

All details of the proposed changes to the PDA Constitution were attached to the meetings agenda, and attendees were invited to ask questions about the proposal.

<u>Motion:</u> That the Physical Disability Australia Constitution e amended as per the details attached to the AGM agenda.

Proposer: Andrew Fairbairn (WA)

Seconder: Talia Spooner-Stewart (ACT)

All attendees approved the constitutional amendment.

Other Business

Ambassador Statement

Dr Dinesh Palipana gave a brief address regarding the need for more educational and employment opportunities for people with disability noting that some large employers were introducing initiatives to employ more people with disability.

He noted more effort needs to be made by all levels of government to make all levels of education fully accessible.

Member questions and statements

Laura Scurr (QLD) asked if PDA had considered charging membership fees to fortify the organisations finances? Tim Harte (Treasurer) noted that it was not being considered, but charitable donations are always appreciated.

Sharon Boyce (QLD) and Tammy Milne (TAS) reiterated Dr Palipana's call for fully inclusive education at all levels to be a reality across Australia.

Meeting Closed at 4:30pm AEDT

PDA Board of Directors (as at 1 November 2023)



Andrew Fairbairn President (WA)



Talia Spooner-Stewart Vice-President (ACT)



Sharon Boyce Vice-President (QLD)



Tim Harte Treasurer (VIC)



Nick Schumi Director (SA)



Tim Marks Director (TAS)



Paul Watson Director (NT)



Mark Pietsch Director (NSW)



Sarah Styles Associate Director (QLD)



Krystal Matthews Associate Director (SA)



Tammy Milne Associate Director (TAS)



Robert Wise Associate Director (VIC)



Peter Simpson Associate Director (NSW)



Paul Williamson Associate Director (ACT)



Melanie Hawkes Associate Director (WA)





Simon Burchill General Manager



Natasha Nobay Communication and Engagement Manager



Trish Johnson Finance Officer