

ANNUAL REPORT

Advocating for Equality



2024

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Building a Legacy, Embracing the Future

Welcome to Advocacy WA's Annual Report, a comprehensive showcase of our accomplishments, progress, and unwavering commitment to excellence throughout the 2024 financial year. This past year has been marked by significant achievements, including our national award for Excellence in Regional and Remote Support.

This year's annual report includes a range of important information including a list of our dedicated team members and board representatives, a message from our Chair and CEO, a summary of the events, initiatives, and community engagements, a breakdown of our advocacy efforts, and details about our financial status, ensuring transparency in our financial management.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and the WA government Department of Communities for their continued support and trust in our organisation. The grants we receive are used judiciously to empower and support individuals living with disability and their families, furthering our mission of advocating for their rights and well-being.

Advocacy WA operates on the traditional lands of the Wadandi people, who are the Saltwater People of South West WA. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present, and emerging, as they are the custodians of the memories and traditions of this land. We are honoured to live and work on this land, and we remain committed to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Indigenous culture and heritage.

Thank you for joining us on this journey of advocacy and service. We look forward to continued growth and collaboration in the years ahead.

Empowering people with disability

Our mission

Advocacy WA assists and supports people with disabilities to achieve social and individual change, empowerment, justice and human rights.

Our vision

To advocate for justice and human rights for people with disabilities in the South West of Western Australia.

Our History

In 1990, Advocacy WA (AWA) was established as a regionally based community not-for-profit organisation in Western Australia. AWA delivers a comprehensive range of individual and systemic advocacy services to support individuals with disabilities residing in the South West region who may be facing vulnerable or marginalised circumstances.

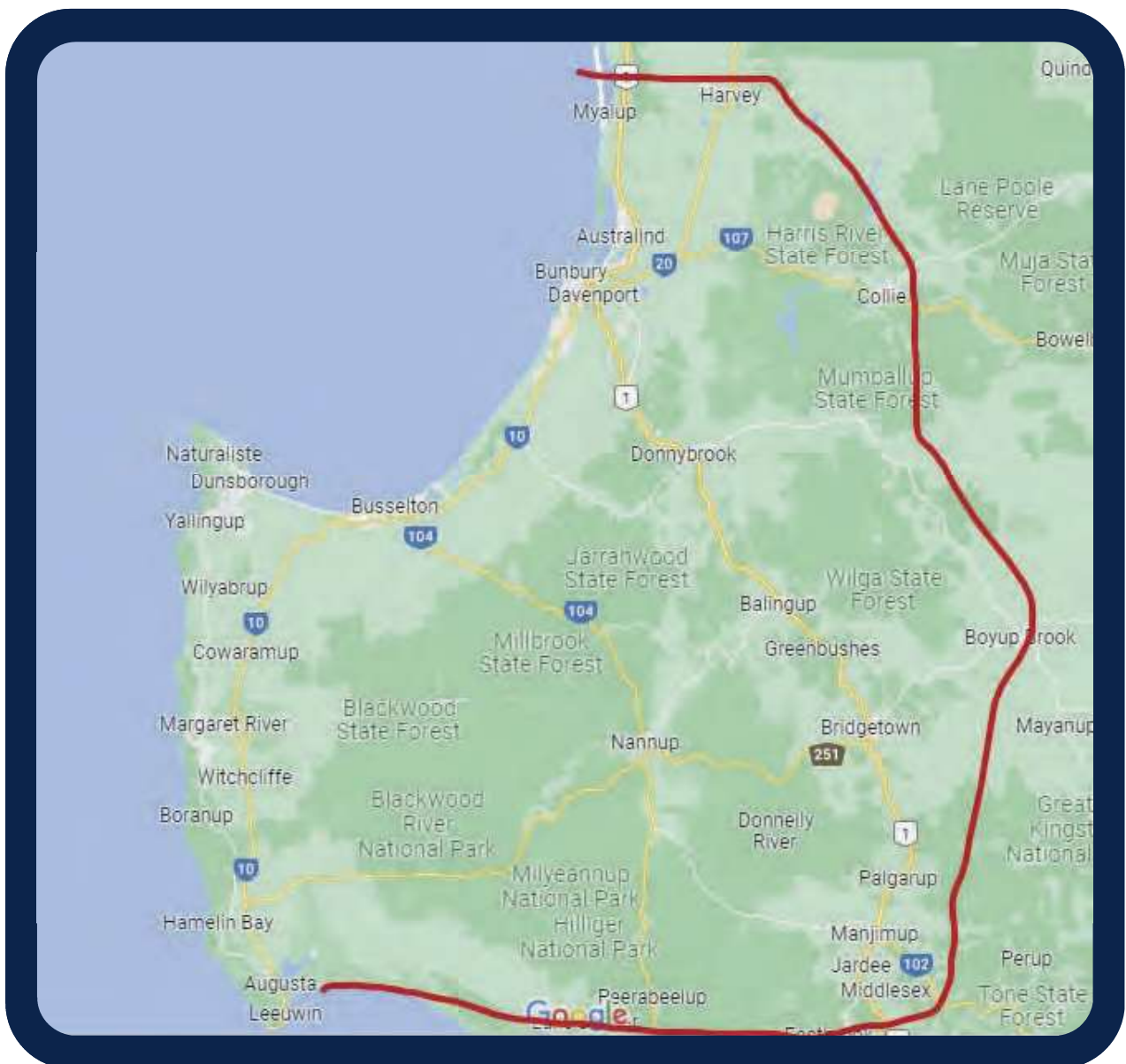
AWA's mission revolves around advocating for social change and enhancing service quality, with a primary focus on areas such as accommodation, employment, financial security, education, training, transportation, and access to specialised healthcare services. Our aim is to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not only recognised but also treated as valued members of their communities.

The governance of AWA is overseen by a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors, many of whom possess extensive experience either working within or having a lived experience of the disability sector. To manage the agency and its operations, Advocacy WA employs a team of highly trained professionals, a significant number of whom are individuals with disabilities themselves.

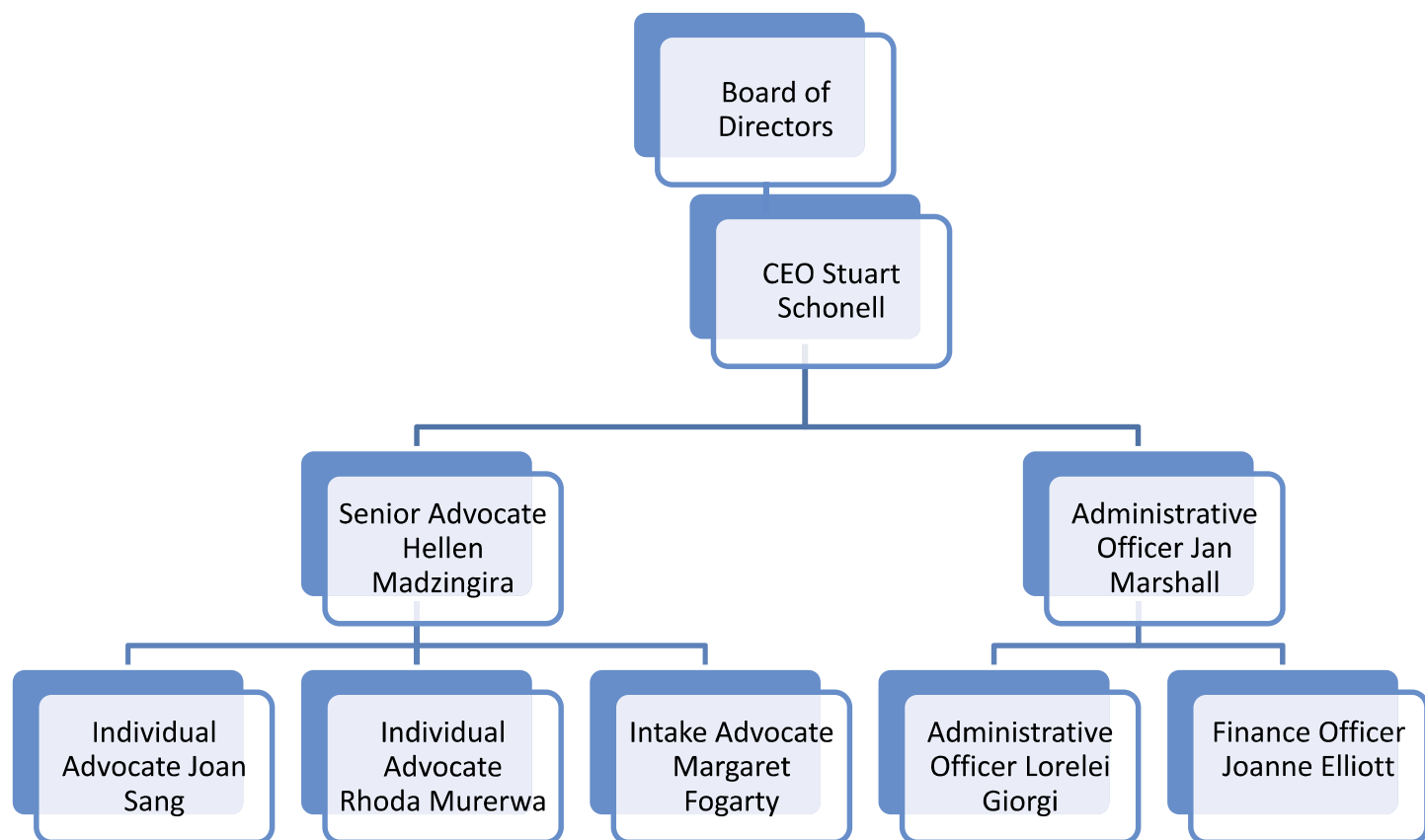
About Us

AWA operates throughout the South West, including Harvey; Collie; Dardanup; Capel; Donnybrook; Balingup; Boyup Brook; Greenbushes; Bridgetown; Nannup; Busselton; Dunsborough; Yallingup; Augusta; Margaret River; Nannup; and Manjimup.

The main office in Bunbury is open to the public Monday to Friday, with regular visits to outreach offices in Collie, Manjimup, Margaret River and Busselton.



Structure and Management



Advocacy WA Incorporated is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

Our people

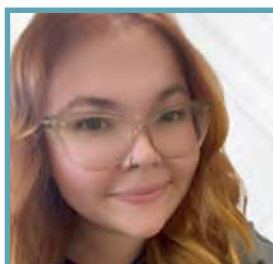
Board Members/ Trustees



Jethro Hepton
Chairperson
Since 12/02/2013



Rajinder Sunner
Treasure
Since 22/03/2023



Larissa Beeby
Secretary
Since 14/02/2023



Ryan Gay
Director
Since 13/04/2021



Kimberley Robbins
Director
Since 2024



Ben Rose
Director
Since 14/02/2023



Denise Clement
Director
Since 18/07/2023

Employees



Stuart Schonell
CEO
Since December 2022



Hellen Madzingira
Senior Advocate
Since August 2022



Rhoda Murerwa
Individual Advocate
Since October 2022



Joan Sang
Individual Advocate
Since May 2022



Jan Marshall
Administration Assistant
Since November 2020



Margaret Fogarty
Intake Officer
Since March 2023



Lorelei Giorgi
Accountability Reception Officer
Since August 2021



Joanne Elliott
Property and Finance Officer
Since June 2023

Message from our Chairperson



Dear Clients, Staff and Stakeholders,

It has been a busy year at Advocacy WA. We had the Disability Royal Commission recommendations released, the NDIS Review completed, and the government response to both. The recommendations included the importance of advocacy and the need for more advocacy funding was highlighted. The DRC also highlighted the need for a coordinated response to issues in education and housing for people living with disability. There were recommendations on the NDIS around general services with the government response to introduce foundational supports which will sit outside of the NDIS – we are yet to hear much about these supports. We are quite concerned about the impact of the government's response to the NDIS Review and the changes to the NDIS legislation that were rushed through parliament. We will of course actively advocate on behalf of all our members.

As always Advocacy WA relies on state and commonwealth funding which proved a challenge to win with many hundreds of organisations competing. Our service demand continues to increase however our funding has not. This means that we have had to be creative in the way we deliver our services and unfortunately, we have had to reduce our staffing numbers (but not in advocates). In the 2024 financial year we reduced our staff numbers by four. Despite this we still made a financial loss. The board and CEO have discussed our financial position and have put in place a number of cost cutting strategies to ensure we end the 2025 financial year in a better position.

Through our waitlist we triage the most important and critical issues. Unfortunately, the waitlist is forever growing and until we receive more adequate funding this will not decrease. One of our strategies is our information sessions for NDIS and DSP where our advocates try and get information to as many people as possible in one hit, reducing the need for one-on-one advice. NDIS Appeals is a major part of our workload at Advocacy WA where there is a growing list of people needing help – and tribunal cases can take up to 18 months.

An unfortunate trend we are seeing is lack of services in regional areas. This is creating more stress for regional and rural clients with disability and their carers and families. Added to this is the rising cost of accommodation and the difficulty people with disability have finding accommodation in regional towns. An unknown fact is that a very large proportion of homeless people have a disability and are homeless because they can no longer afford to pay rent on the low amount received from the DSP. Along with a lack of services and housing in regional towns is the lack of transport options. We continue to advocate on these issues.

On a positive note, we won the national award for excellence in regional and remote support – testament to the hard work of our staff. We were also runner-up in three other categories. Along with the numerous events we have spoken at over the past year, the CEO and I were invited to speak at the National Disability Summit where we presented on quality person centred care with a focus on regional disadvantage. I look forward to representing our clients and members over the next 12 months and would like to thank my fellow board members for their important contribution to the running of AWA, and the staff for a successful year and their hard work.

Jethro Hepton, Chairperson

Message from our CEO



Dear Clients, Staff and Stakeholders,

Reflecting on my almost two years in this role, I am deeply appreciative of the dedication and hard work exhibited by our staff and board members. I am also quite shocked at the difficulty in winning grant money and the lack of attention WA seems to receive when it comes to commonwealth funding.

During the 2024 financial year AWA submitted 14 grant applications while three of our grants concluded. From 14 applications we won no new grants for the year however we did receive a small grant from LotteryWest to undertake an Inclusive Leadership project during the 2025 financial year. This disappointing result put us in a less favourable financial position. As such we have reduced our staffing profile by four, with Tania McInnes, Sara Gunning, Ryan Couanon and Cyra Tanduyan moving on to new challenges. We wish them all the best and thank them for their dedication to people living with disability.

While funding has been a challenge, performance has been exceptional, with our client numbers continually growing, our client feedback consistently excellent and a national award added to our trophy cabinet. Advocacy WA won the national award for Excellence in Regional and Remote Support in December 2023. We were also runner up in several other national and state awards. This is thanks to the amazing performance of staff and the dedication of our Board of Directors under Chair Jethro Hepton.

We continued to welcome student placements as they provide valuable learning opportunities for both students and staff. During the 2024 financial year we have been fortunate to have had Leah Currey from Edith Cowan University, Irene Oloo from Edith Cowan University, Chloe Pavlov from the University of Western Australia and Darcie Halkyard from South West Regional TAFE, work in our offices. These student placements keep us attuned to the latest developments in our sector while affording students practical experience. We deeply appreciate the dedication and contributions of these students, spanning administrative support, project support, research and assistance to advocates.

Throughout the past year, we continued our strong affiliations with People with Disabilities WA, Great Southern Community Legal Centre, and Sussex St Community Legal Service. We have also built stronger relationships with Forrest Personnel and Enable WA. These collaborative endeavours offer an opportunity to exchange insights, ideas, and resources to elevate the quality of services provided to clients across WA. These partnerships have yielded impactful initiatives, including an employability program tailored for youth with disabilities, the establishment of community disability advocacy networks, and joint efforts in individual advocacy addressing state-level issues.

Last year I wrote about the multiple reviews reshaping the sector's operational landscape. Advocacy WA actively contributed to these reviews and continued to provide feedback about implementation throughout the 2024 financial year. Over the past few months we have witnessed the beginning of sweeping changes as recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS Review are implemented, including through a revised NDIS Act. Very few Royal Commission recommendations have been fully adopted by either state or commonwealth governments, and the revised NDIS Act appears to be a vehicle for reducing funding and making access more difficult.

Advocacy WA continues to advocate for the rights and well-being of people with disabilities at state and commonwealth levels and we have let our disappointment regarding the NDIS and Royal Commission be known through mainstream media, social media, and our systemic advocacy activities. We continue to actively engage in lobbying efforts by targeting government ministers and senior public servants. These endeavours aim to enhance policy, raise awareness, and promote a deeper understanding of disability, particularly regional disability, as it is in the regions where people living with disability are most disadvantaged. As we navigate the evolving landscape of disability services, we remain dedicated to campaigning for our clients and ensuring their voices are heard.

During the past year we have met with Minister Punch on several occasions, Minister Rishworth on one occasion and senior public servants within the Department of Communities and the Department of Social Services on multiple occasions. The Advocacy WA Chair and I have also spoken at the National Disability Summit twice and at our International Day of Disability event, attended by Minister Punch and local MP Nola Marino.

Throughout the year we engaged with the community whenever possible. We continue to speak at schools and universities, visit community leaders across the South West, and attend community events to raise the profile of Advocacy WA, including Grandfamilies Day, NAIDOC week events, and City of Bunbury events including a wheelchair "walk through" of the city centre with city staff. We proudly offer our services free of charge to anyone in the South West who identifies as having a disability.

Stu Schonell, CEO

ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES

We supported people in **100** different towns/suburbs throughout the year, travelled

29,629 kms and ran **28** information sessions throughout the South West.

Advocates made **87** trips to rural towns to visit clients regarding their advocacy issues.

Advocates supported **462** clients with **592** issues throughout the year.

We attended, with an information stall, multiple events in multiple towns.

We created **150** hours of work for people living with disability.

We submitted **14** different grant tenders.

We audited businesses and shires for accessibility in Harvey, Capel, Bunbury, Dalyellup, Collie, Busselton, Dunsborough, Manjimup and Yallingup.

We hosted **4** interns from **2** universities.

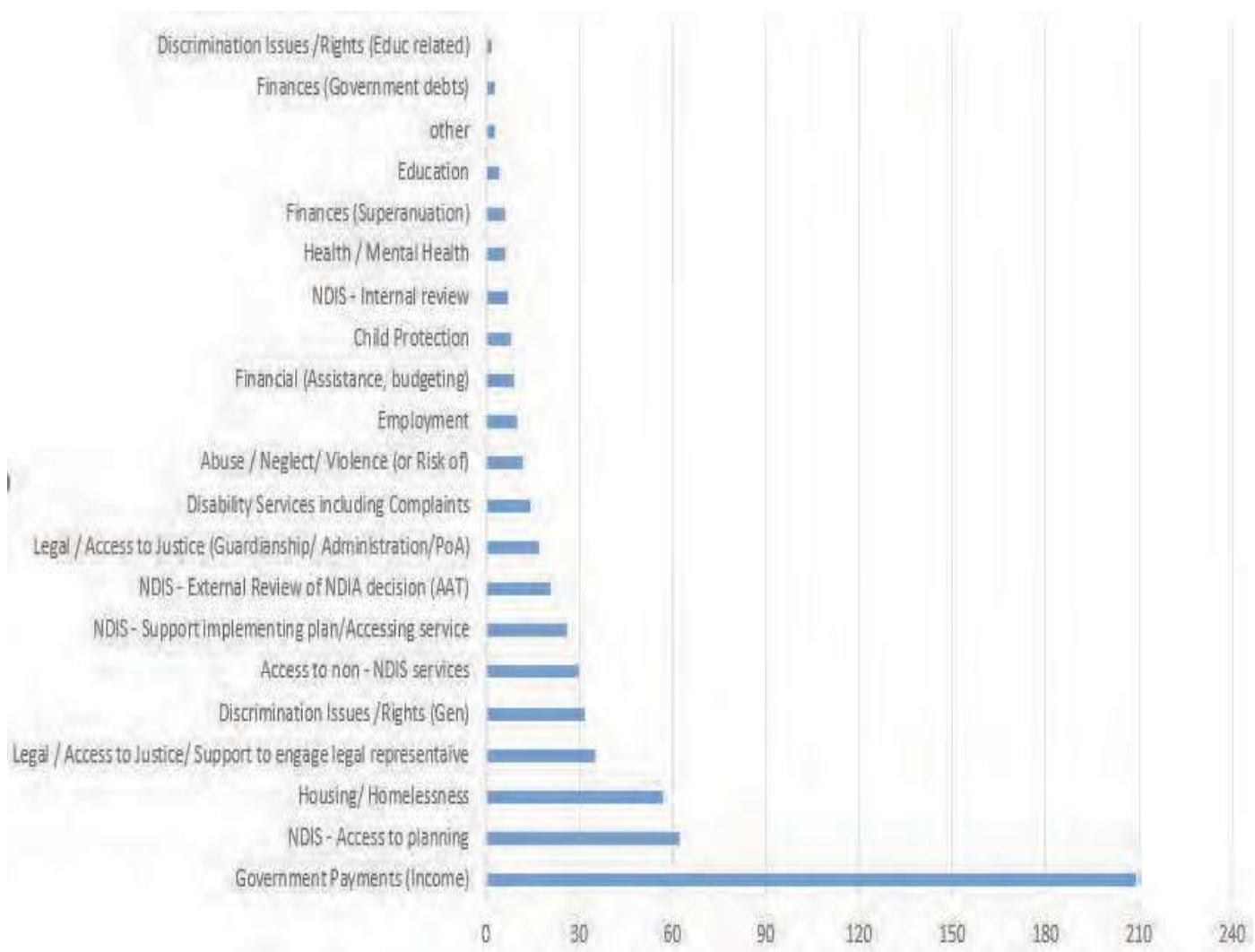
The CEO and Chair spoke at national and state events including the National Disability Summit, International Day of Disability, Business functions, Shire events and South West schools, TAFEs and Universities.

Community members have told us that the top issues affecting people with disability in the region are:

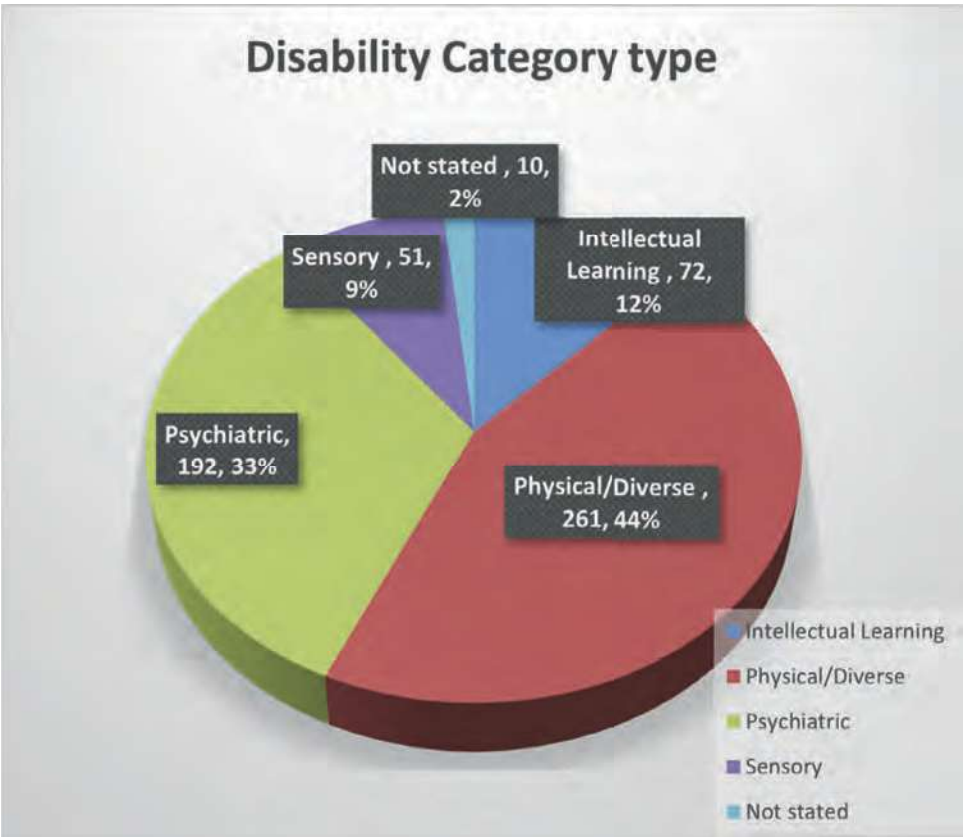
1. Accessing the disability support pension
2. NDIS access and appeals
3. Housing and homelessness
4. Access to justice and legal support
5. Mental Health services
6. Transport

Individual Advocacy

In the past year, Advocacy WA received nearly 600 requests for support from clients across three distinct funding streams. Of these, approximately 50% were focused on issues related to the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP). This reflects a continued strong demand for support within this key area. The number of clients seeking assistance with state-related matters remained relatively stable compared to the previous year, indicating consistent needs in this domain. Notably, there was a significant reduction in cases related to NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) appeals. However this decline reversed in the past few months which can be attributed to recent changes in the NDIS process. Throughout the year, our organisation has effectively addressed all challenges experienced by clients through targeted individual advocacy and comprehensive information provision. We remain committed to supporting our clients' needs and adapting to the evolving landscape of disability advocacy.



Advocates played a crucial role in supporting individuals with disabilities by addressing key challenges such as abuse, neglect, and access to essential services like healthcare and education. They advocate for inclusive education and work to secure mental health support for clients. Advocates also assisted clients find affordable and accessible housing, addressing homelessness issues prevalent in the South West, and ensuring legal representation in cases where rights of people with disability are threatened. Navigating the complex NDIS process was made easier through our advocates guidance, ensuring clients receive proper services. Advocates helped individuals to connect with necessary resources, overcoming geographic and service access barriers. Through these efforts, Advocacy WA advocates managed to help individuals with disabilities overcome systemic challenges and achieve better outcomes.



Advocates on the Move

This year, our advocates travelled extensively throughout the Southwest, including remote small towns, to ensure that disability services are accessible to everyone. By visiting both regional towns and underserved remote towns, we provided direct support and personalised assistance, overcoming barriers related to transportation and service availability. This hands-on approach allowed us to better address local needs, strengthen community ties, and enhance our outreach efforts. Our commitment to meeting clients where they are remains a cornerstone of our advocacy work.

Client Stories 2023-2024 (names changed to protect identities)

Steven's fight with the Shire

In late 2023 Steven fell breaking his femur and lying on the floor for 6 days, until found. He had 3 operations on his leg culminating in amputation. While in hospital he was diagnosed with cancer. Steven now requires the use of a wheelchair to mobilise. Steven is experiencing housing issues with his local shire and their management staff who operate social housing for the district. While in hospital the Shire organised a clean of Steven's unit, which he verbally agreed to, believing it would be a "tidy up", as the unit was about to be completely renovated. Instead, a deep clean costing \$1900 was done. Steven is on the aged pension and is paying it off in \$50 per fortnight instalments. Steven experienced significant trauma relating to his physical health due to loss of mobility, a leg amputation and the cancer diagnosis, causing feelings of hopelessness and suicide. Interactions with Shire staff have not been positive. They have been unsupportive and behaved in an uncompassionate manner, demanding monies for cleaning and threatening to evict him.

Steven's very supportive hospital allied health team attempted to assist him with the Shire post discharge however no outcomes eventuated. Steven was relocated from his permanent unit when renovations began in early 2024. His Occupational Therapists recommended a level entry shower access and improving general accessibility for him while renovations were being done. The Shire has not been willing to enter negotiations for making his residence accessible. Steven has no family in Australia and a limited support network. Advocacy WA is working with multiple agencies to support Steven and his case is ongoing. If you or anyone you know with a disability is experiencing similar problems, please contact Advocacy WA for support.

Emma wants to be treated like everyone else

Emma contacted Advocacy WA about bullying and discrimination from Education Assistants and staff at a school in Bunbury. Emma is legally blind and uses a white cane as a mobility aid. Staff at Emma's school are limiting her participation in activities including extracurricular activities. They see her disability as an inability to participate and a reason for exclusion. Other students in the school copy the way teachers, assistants and staff behave towards Emma, modelling the inappropriate behaviour. Education Assistants follow Emma around the school removing her independence and creating a barrier to making friends with other students.

Emma's mother has written to the Deputy Principal multiple times but received no response. Emma has spoken to her class coordinator about the treatment and its negative effect on her psychological wellbeing. The school has a risk management plan in place for Emma that requires an Education Assistant to follow her and excludes participation in activities outside of school grounds. Advocacy WA have contacted the school and Emma advised that the Deputy Principal, class coordinator and school counsellor have agreed to meet to discuss the risk management plan.

Mrs Jessop wants to stay at home

Mrs Jessop applied for an increase in core NDIS supports to enable her to continue living safely with her husband of 40 years in their house and the NDIA denied the request, insisting she move to a 2 resident SDA, to be shared with a stranger. Mrs Jessop was also told she would have to negotiate approval with the SDA provider and the stranger for her husband of 40 years to live with her. They would also have to move to an unknown city as there are no SDAs available in their regional town.

Mrs Jessop and her family were quite distressed about this change of circumstance and were referred to Advocacy WA who requested a review of the NDIA decision based on choice and control. Advocacy WA objected to the decision based on choice and control, as per the NDIS Act and United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 19, Living independently and being included in the community: "Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement".

Despite the objection, the NDIA decision was upheld. Advocacy WA escalated the matter to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, working closely with Mrs Jessop's family, allied health professionals, support workers, support providers and legal aid. Advocates requested a section 42D, which was granted however at minimal funding levels. Advocates requested the NDIS use an independent OT to report on Mrs Jessop's support requirements. After multiple case conferences, phone calls, emails and teams' meetings with the agency lawyer, Mrs Jessop's representative, legal aid lawyer, and service providers, the Advocacy WA team finally got the supports sought, ensuring she could continue living at home with her husband in the home and community she had known for decades.

Feedback from the Smiths

I first met Rhoda in June 2023. I can remember it so well – I walked into her office and basically cried and cried. Rhoda met me as a broken mum over my daughters NDIA plan trying to advocate for things that make her happy and supports needed to match our family circumstances. We were so lucky in getting referred to Advocacy WA as the system was failing our family.

What struck me about Rhoda was her empathy, ability to listen and her calmness. Rhoda made sense of all the technical language, guided us when information was required and supported us through an appeal of a NDIS plan and decision which went against all the recommendations of the service providers. Rhoda never made us feel we were being unreasonable in our goals for our daughter. If it was not for Rhoda, we never would have challenged the decision. As hard as the Tribunal process has been I am so glad Rhoda encouraged us not to accept the section 100 outcome and to push for our daughter's full entitlements.

Throughout the Tribunal process I was ready to give up, but Rhoda and my husband encouraged me to stick with it. Long term carer's fatigue affected my ability to fight. With Rhoda's help we have secured more support for our daughter at home and funding for her to attend Teen camps in Perth. These camps give our daughter time away from us and bring so much happiness to her life. Saying thank you to Advocacy WA and Rhoda doesn't seem enough given the difference you have made to a young teenager and her family.

Systemic Advocacy



We have been hard at work on systemic advocacy over the past 12 months. We joined the Symposium 100, a group of like-minded organisations trying to organise funding for new social houses in the Southwest. This is a current passion of ours and we have been talking to anyone who will listen including ministers, advisors, and the Real Estate Institute. AWA has been lobbying hard regarding housing and homelessness for regional people living with disability.

We wrote and submitted a paper on the disability health interface to the WA Department of Communities. The paper was based on the results from surveys of AWA South West clients. The lack of an effective interface between departments of health, allied health, the NDIS and NDIS providers means people living with disability are having to explain themselves again and again, across the health system, slowing access to health services and causing some people to cease seeking support. Systems within and across the health/allied health sector and the medical system seem to work independently of each other meaning vulnerable people with disability, requiring care from multiple service providers, are put at a disadvantage. In regional, rural and remote Australia this problem is exacerbated by a lack of health services, specialists, transport, NDIS providers, disability accommodation, and inaccessible buildings and facilities.

AWA sits on the WA Department of Education access and inclusion committee and is the voice for regional children with disability in the school system. We have been working with the department on its response to recommendations of the Royal Commission. This relationship with the department and senior education bureaucrats has provided AWA a forum to highlight the divide between regional children with disability and their city counterparts.

We continue to attend community events to raise awareness of disability in the community. If you see us at an event, please come over and say hello. One of the interesting things we did during the year was lead a City of Bunbury staff wheelthrough of the city— this entailed staff from the City of Bunbury using wheelchairs to navigate the city. It highlighted the difficulties people using mobility aids face when navigating the streets of any town or city.

We continued our strategy of trial by media, raising the awareness of disability in regional communities and highlighting the disadvantages people living with disability face in regional WA. This included an article in the South West Times about the lack of access to the speedway for people living with disability, an article in the South West Times about accessibility issues in Bunbury, and an ABC news and Landline piece on access to beaches in WA for people living with disability.

During the year we met with Minister Rishworth about the disconnected approach to servicing people living with disability in regional areas, lack of a Disability Representative Organisation as the voice of regional, rural and remote Australians with disability, lack of opportunities for people with disability in the areas of education, employment and volunteering, and the failure of the funding model to encourage small business to make reasonable adjustments to workplaces so they can employ people living with disability. Our CEO sat on Legal Aid WA's NDIS panel with Senator Steele-John where the CEO answered questions on AWA's response and concerns about the NDIS review recommendations.

What are we getting up to in 2024 - 2025

1. Advocate for a fair go for regional, rural and remote people with disability:

In the upcoming year, Advocacy WA remains committed to systemic advocacy for people with disabilities. We will continue to push for better outcomes for regional, rural and remote people with disability, particularly regarding changes to the NDIS and the implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations. We will continue to write to and seek audiences with ministers and their advisors, ensuring that the voices and concerns of those we represent are heard at the highest levels of government.

2. Find more funding:

We will continue to apply for grants and seek alternative avenues of funding. We will also apply to the Department of Social Services to expand our service offerings to the Geraldton region, allowing us to strengthen our support programs and advocacy efforts into other parts of WA while keeping our home base firmly in Bunbury.

3. Strong Collaborative Partnerships:

Advocacy WA will not only sustain our valuable partnerships with organisations like PWDWA, GSCLS, and VALID but also actively seek new partners. We have recently submitted a joint funding application with Enable WA and have joined a group of like-minded organisations advocating for more social housing in the South West. More partnerships will enable us to broaden our impact and tackle disability-related challenges on a larger scale.

4. Empowering Staff for Client-Centric Service:

Our staff members are the heart of Advocacy WA, and we recognise the pivotal role they play in serving our clients. Once again, we will seek quality staff development opportunities for our staff in the 2024-2025 year. As the sector changes and new Bills such as a revamped NDIS are implemented, we want to ensure our staff understand and address the challenges faced by the disability community. We will continue to provide client-centric, empathetic, and effective support.

5. A Continued focus on financial management:

Advocacy WA is committed to enhancing our financial management processes to ensure that every dollar we receive is utilised to its fullest potential in supporting those we serve. This commitment to transparency, accountability, and prudent financial stewardship is fundamental to our mission.

6. Board Training for People with Disability:

Thanks to funding from LotteryWest and with the support of Volunteer South West we have a brand new and innovative project. During the year we will train people with disability on how to be on a board of management, with a particular focus on not-for-profit Boards and local government organisations. We will also offer free disability awareness training for Boards.

7. Economic Participation Project:

We will also run our very successful youth employment project with PWDWA once again. People with disability in the South West will be given training on accessibility audits and will be paired with local businesses to undertake an audit and provide a report on improving accessibility.

As we embark on the 2024-2025 year, Advocacy WA remains dedicated to championing the rights, needs, and aspirations of individuals with disabilities, their families and carers. Through proactive advocacy, strategic partnerships, and continuous improvement, we are poised to make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

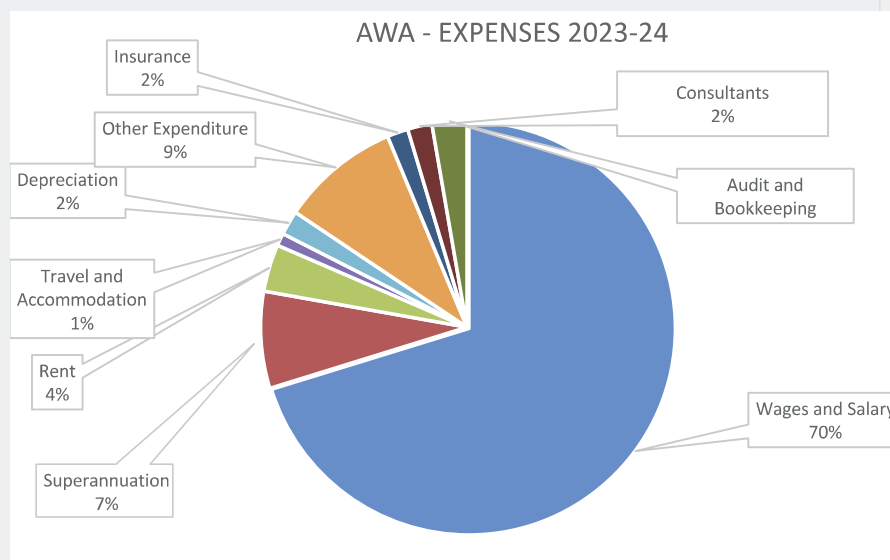
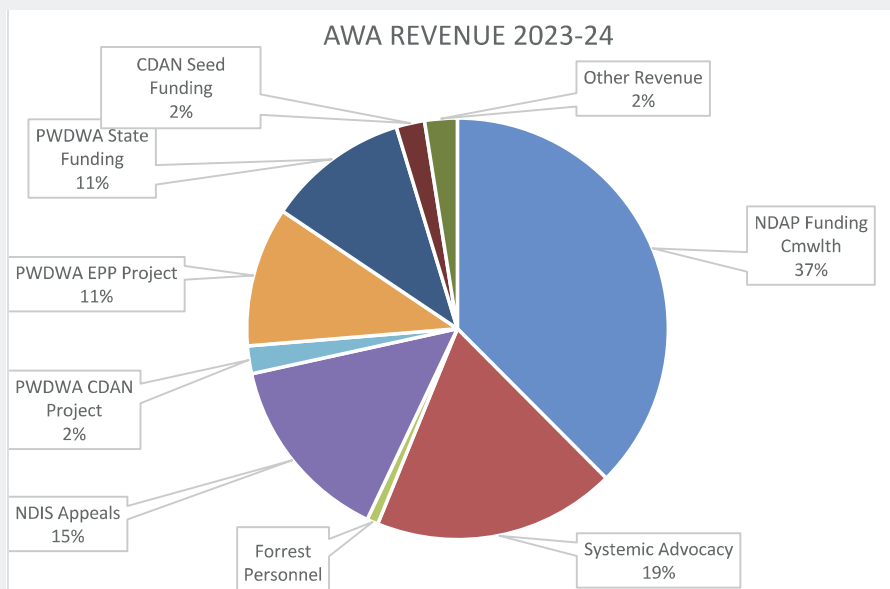
Treasurer's Report

Rajinder (Raj) Sunner



I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for AWA, highlighting our commitment to maintaining strong and effective financial management. The organisation remains in a solid financial position for the 2024-25 fiscal year. I am also pleased to report that AWA has met all financial compliance requirements, as evidenced by the audited reports prepared by our external auditors, AMD.

Currently, AWA's sole source of income is grant funding. While this support is essential, I acknowledge the growing importance of securing competitive funding in the Not-for-Profit sector. Sustained and diversified funding is crucial for initiating and supporting the projects, activities, and services that enable us to continue making a meaningful impact in the community.



Auditor's Statement

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash Assets	2	988,854	1,270,331
Debtors and Other Receivables	3	24,568	22,812
Total Current Assets		1,013,422	1,293,143
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment	4	62,195	79,005
Total Non-Current Assets		62,195	79,005
Total Assets		1,075,617	1,372,148
Current Liabilities			
Provisions	5	41,988	36,568
Payables	6	64,557	45,207
Unexpended Funds	7	-	166,134
Total Current Liabilities		106,545	247,909
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	5	26,920	26,048
Total Non-Current Liabilities		26,920	26,048
Total Liabilities		133,465	273,957
NET ASSETS		942,152	1,098,191
Equity			
Accumulated Funds		942,152	1,098,191

This Statement of Financial Position is to be read in conjunction with the relevant notes that accompany these statements

Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Income		
Recurrent Grants	1,008,271	1,005,228
Gain on Sale of Assets	-	11,182
Bank Interest	18,809	5,955
Sundry Income	7,087	5,591
Total Income	1,034,167	1,027,956
 Expenditure		
Advertising, Marketing and Promotion	13,490	11,782
Administration	1,460	6,690
Audit- Financial and Surveillance	12,811	5,360
Bad Debts	800	-
Bank Charges	125	120
Bookkeeping	19,655	16,700
Computer Costs	16,781	9,366
Consultants	15,519	4,005
Depreciation	22,859	21,086
Insurance	19,590	12,331
Meeting Costs	847	1,866
Motor Vehicle Lease Costs	1,132	2,857
Motor Vehicle Running Costs	11,633	9,860
Other Expenses	26,753	8,070
Printing, Postage and Stationery	11,486	13,063
Rent, Room Hire and Occupancy Costs	45,935	48,938
Repairs and Maintenance	9,516	6,047
Salaries and Superannuation	926,019	776,822
Subscriptions	8,119	4,024
Telephone and Internet	7,286	13,417
Training and Board Expenses	6,746	16,362
Travel, Accommodation and Staff Amenities	11,644	21,238
Total Expenditure	1,190,206	1,010,004
 Net (deficit) / surplus to accumulated funds	 (156,039)	 17,952

This Statement of Income and Expenditure is to be read in conjunction with the relevant notes that accompany these statements

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Equity at the commencement of the year	1,098,191	1,080,239
(Deficit) / surplus from operations	(156,039)	17,952
Equity at end of the year	942,152	1,098,191

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
<u>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</u>			
Grant Income and Government Subsidies		842,137	1,088,445
Receipts from Other Sources		7,087	5,591
Interest		18,809	5,955
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(1,143,462)	(987,682)
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	8	(275,429)	112,309
<u>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</u>			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		-	11,182
Payments for plant and equipment		(6,048)	(32,607)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(6,048)	(21,425)
Net (decrease) / increase in cash held		(281,477)	90,884
Cash assets at the beginning of the year		1,270,331	1,179,447
Cash assets at the end of the year	2	988,854	1,270,331

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
NOTE 2		
Cash Assets		
Working Account	249,583	574,938
Petty Cash	128	-
GST Bank Account	218,216	685,471
Term Deposit	514,580	-
Debit Card Account	6,347	9,922
	<u>988,854</u>	<u>1,270,331</u>

	2024 \$	2023 \$
NOTE 3		
Debtors and Other Receivables		
Bond	7,000	7,000
Prepayments	12,607	15,812
Undeposited Funds	4,961	-
	<u>24,568</u>	<u>22,812</u>

NOTE 4		
Plant & Equipment		
Leasehold Improvements at cost	70,020	70,020
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(48,818)	(35,948)
	<u>21,202</u>	<u>34,072</u>

Motor Vehicles at cost	59,132	59,132
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(22,644)	(14,199)
	<u>36,488</u>	<u>44,933</u>

Plant Building & Equipment	6,048	-
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,543)	-
	<u>4,505</u>	<u>-</u>

Total Plant and Equipment	<u>62,195</u>	<u>79,005</u>
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NOTE 5		
Provisions		
Current Provisions- Annual Leave	<u>41,988</u>	<u>36,568</u>
Non-Current Provisions - Long Service Leave	<u>26,920</u>	<u>26,048</u>

NOTE 6		
Payables		
Accounts Payable	1,476	4,734
Accrued Expenses	2,594	3,085
ATO Liabilities	28,983	23,592
Payroll Liability	8,820	4,968
Superannuation Liability	22,684	8,828
	<u>64,557</u>	<u>45,207</u>

NOTE 7		
Unexpended Funds	<u>-</u>	<u>166,134</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>166,134</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
NOTE 8		
Reconciliation of net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities to income and expenditure:		
Net (deficit) / surplus	(156,039)	17,952
Non - cash flows in surplus		
- Depreciation	22,859	21,086
- Gain on sale of assets	-	(11,182)
(Increase) decrease in assets		
Receivables and prepayments	(1,756)	2,936
Increase (decrease) in liabilities		
Accounts payable and unexpended grants	(146,784)	77,418
Provisions	6,291	4,099
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	(275,429)	112,309

NOTE 9

Economic Dependency

The ongoing operation of the services provided by Advocacy WA Incorporated and ability to continue as a going concern is dependent upon the continued receipt of funds from the Department of Communities and consortium through partnership with People with Disabilities (WA) Inc.

NOTE 10

Leasing Commitments

On 29 December 2021, Advocacy WA Incorporated entered into an extension of Lease Agreement for 4 Plaza Street, Bunbury for a term of 2 years commencing 1 May 2024. An option for an additional 2 year term commencing 1 May 2024 is contained within the original Lease Agreement dated 12 June 2019 and was exercised during the year to expire 30 April 2026.

The total value of the remaining lease commitments at 30 June 2024 was \$59,664 (GST exclusive).

NOTE 11

Subsequent Event

The Board is not aware of any subsequent events that have a material impact on the financial statements for Advocacy WA Incorporated.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ADVOCACY WA INCORPORATED

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Advocacy WA Incorporated which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of income and expenditure, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012*, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view, in all material respects, of the financial position of Advocacy WA Incorporated as at 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended and
- ii) complying with the accounting policies described in Note 1, the *Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Regulations 2022*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of Advocacy WA Incorporated in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015*, *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Advocacy WA Incorporated to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015* and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Emphasis of Matter – Economic Dependency

We draw attention to Note 9 to the financial statements which outlines the ongoing operation of Advocacy WA Incorporated is dependent upon the continued receipt of funding from the Department of Social Services and People with Disabilities (WA) Inc.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012* and for such internal controls as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, management are responsible for assessing Advocacy WA Incorporated's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going

concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate Advocacy WA Incorporated or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing Advocacy WA Incorporated's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As a part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

AMD Chartered Accountants



MARIA CAVALLO
Director

Level 1, 53 Victoria Street, Bunbury, Western Australia

Dated this 7th day of October 2024



As we conclude this annual report, we extend our gratitude to all our stakeholders, supporters, and partners who have been instrumental in advancing our mission. We have made significant strides in upholding the rights of people living with disability at both a systemic and individual level.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that the coming year will bring. With your continued support, we are confident that we can further enhance the lives of those we serve and continue to drive positive change in our community.

As we reflect on the past year's accomplishments and look toward the future, we are reminded that our work is not done. There is still much to be achieved, and we are dedicated to pushing the boundaries for the people we serve. We eagerly embrace the year ahead and the positive impact we will create together.



How you can help?

Become a member

AWA invites new members. We are seeking to attract people with skills, energy and a commitment to our core values.

Membership forms are available on our website
www.advocacywa.org.au




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