



Down Syndrome
Western Australia



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



2025 CALENDAR SHOOT

Cover Valentine, this page Rome, back
page Archer at the Enchanted World Calen-
dar shoot for the 2025 Playgroup Calendar.

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OUR VISION

All people are welcomed in an inclusive society, where their contribution is valued and they are supported to lead a meaningful life of their choice.

OUR PURPOSE

Supporting a Life of Possibilities

OUR VALUES

COMMUNITY

As an organisation, we provide an environment where everyone feels welcomed, where our members are placed at the centre of our decision making

The services we provide build capability and opportunity

Our work is strengthened by the partnerships we form in the broader community

COURAGE

Our actions and decision making are forward thinking, innovative and empowering

We are brave, curious and optimistic in our pursuits

INTEGRITY

In all dealings, with all people we are open, transparent and accountable

Our communication and our actions reflect fairness, equality, trust and authenticity



Down Syndrome
Western Australia

RESPECT

We stand for the human rights of each individual and their right to inclusion and equality of opportunities

We treat each person with dignity and respect their uniqueness

SERVICE

Our services are informed by lived experience, knowledge and research and are underpinned by empathy and kindness

CONNECTION

We listen, support, and respond to the needs of individuals and those that support them

We proactively seek out and work collaboratively with the community, our service partners, and decision makers to support the life our members choose for themselves

We communicate openly, transparently, and frequently

CHAIR REPORT

It has been another exciting year for DSWA, with continued growth in both member numbers and engagement throughout the organisation.

A significant highlight of the past 12 months was the attendance of a large Western Australian contingent at the World Down Syndrome Congress held July 2024 in Brisbane. Many of our members presented and/ or co-chaired sessions- well done for putting in the effort to showcase your abilities on the world stage! Cassandra Hughes (CEO) and Nikki Schwagermann (Senior Family Support Officer), together with Emily McCain (parent and Board member) also presented papers which were very well received- thank you for promoting our Association so professionally.

It was a wonderful chance to celebrate achievements, learn about advancements in the world of research and discover new opportunities for people with Down Syndrome and their families. If you'd like to know more about the Congress, please read the November 2024 issue of the VOICE, available via the DSA website.

In October 2024 our CEO, Cassandra, completed a Triathlon as a fundraiser for DSWA. Her efforts were just extraordinary and demonstrated her total commitment and passion for the work we do. On behalf of all our members, we thank her sincerely.

Other highlights include a Morning Tea hosted by His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM, Governor of Western Australia and Mrs Dawson, co-patrons of DSWA, at Government House to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day, the receipt of a 2 year grant specifically for work in the adult space, the growth of our Regional Outreach

program and the success of our Employment program which serves to place people with Down Syndrome into open employment.

A major change was the move of our office to the Belmont Hub, which has been positive in many ways. We have access to more space, a variety of meeting rooms and ample parking. It is expected that this will be a long term home for DSWA.

At the WA Disability Support Awards, held in May, the Employment team from Down Syndrome WA were finalists and two of our staff were winners in their category- Nikki Schwagermann (Emerging Leader) and Cassandra Hughes (Outstanding Leader). Congratulations to both women. It is very pleasing to see your continued excellence and dedication be recognised by your peers.

As with all organisations such as ours, tight financial control is essential to ensure our longevity and we are always looking for ways to improve our income. In particular, we are trying to find some corporate partners to help us to maintain or launch some projects which we do not currently have funding for. Small, individual fundraising activities are also welcome as they help promote our organisation as well as keeping our budget balanced.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members who volunteer their time and talents to support a life of possibilities for our members with Trisomy 21 and their families.

Nia Parker
Chairperson



“DJ Incredible
rocking the tunes at
StepUp 2024”



CEO REPORT



2025 marks another chapter in the journey of Down Syndrome WA — one of connection, compassion, and quiet courage.

This year, our team delivered more programs, supported more families, and deepened our presence across Western Australia. From new families receiving a prenatal diagnosis to adults seeking meaningful work, skill building and friendships. Our commitment is clear: to walk alongside people with Down Syndrome and those who love and support them, every step of the way.

We're proud of the early growth of our Life Skills Lab adult project creating empowered pathways to independence, the continued impact, reach and dedication of our Family Support Team, and continuation of our employment project. Each initiative reflects our values, and continues to focus on inclusion, empowerment, and lived experience with a commitment to programs that matter to our community. Our communication continues to develop and grow, and I recognise the support from staff in managing the multiple DSWA communication channels. The year has also been filled with activities, workshops, events and opportunities for members to connect, learn and celebrate. The 2025 Gala MC work by the DSWA Advisory Network was a highlight of the year, and demonstrated the wonderful capacity, humour and skills of our members. StepUP was again a wonderful event, one though we must continue to recognise as a major fundraising activity for DSWA.

This year has also been one of sector connection, greater policy and advocacy involvement and broad national conversations and input through the Down Syndrome Australia consortium group. It has also seen the ongoing strengthening of partnerships with the other Down Syndrome organisations across Australia. DSWA has

been proud to support the South Australian community, facilitating and supporting two casual staff, a new ENews and building of the SA data base with a view to seeing a new association there in 2025-2026.

2024-2025 has also continued to challenge us. As national funding priorities shift, we must plan carefully for the future. Our Board and leadership team are actively focused on financial sustainability and building income diversity so that DSWA can continue to be a trusted, enduring source of support for the Down Syndrome community. To achieve this, we need support from the community for the programs, activities and workshops that we run. Numbers across programs vary dramatically, and finding consistent ways to attract attendance, continues to be challenging.

I am grateful to our incredible staff, volunteers, families, funders, and members. It is your strength, your stories, and our purpose to Support a Life of Possibilities that drive us forward.

We are looking at the coming year with great excitement and optimism. 2026 will see us reflect on our past, and look toward our future with the celebrations of DSWA's 40th anniversary in 2026 and the delivery of a new long term strategic plan. We are ready and committed to honour our past and to step boldly into the future, together.

Cassandra Hughes
Chief Executive Officer
Down Syndrome WA



TREASURER REPORT

The 2024/25 financial year has been again be a strong one for Down Syndrome Western Australia (DSWA), finishing with a profit of \$56,595 slightly lower than the prior year's profit of \$76,019. This achievement is especially significant given the year began with a deficit budget. Through disciplined financial oversight, strong leadership, and the remarkable contribution of our staff and volunteers, many of whom gave generously of their time, we successfully delivered a wide range of impactful programs and events while maintaining a sound financial position.

Total revenue for the year reached \$953,331, up from \$864,055 in 2023/24. The largest proportion of income, approximately 65%, was derived from grants. Fundraising initiatives contributed 12%, while donations from individuals and corporate supporters accounted for 7%. On the expenditure side, the majority of funds were allocated to direct service delivery, including family support programs, advocacy efforts, and inclusive community events. Operational and administrative costs were kept within budget and represented 16% of total expenditure. This careful allocation ensured that the greatest possible portion of our funds went directly toward supporting our members and delivering on our vision and purpose

While grants continue to make up the majority of DSWA's income, the long-term availability of such funding remains uncertain. As such, growing revenue through donations, community fundraising, fee for service work and new partnerships will be critical to ensuring the organisation's sustainability and our ability to support a life of possibility for our members.

STEPUP

Funds raised from StepUp amounting to **\$15,439**



2025 GALA






Funds raised **\$39,000**



TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Teacher Professional Development Day was held in February generating an income of **\$10,241**



	REVENUE	How much money we received	\$953,331
	EXPENSES	How much money we spent	\$896,736
	SURPLUS	How much money we had left	\$56,595
	TOTAL ASSETS	How much money we have now	\$829,896
	LIABILITIES	How much money we owe	\$417,545
	EQUITY NET ASSETS	How much money would be left if we sell everything we own and pay all the money we owe	\$412,352

DSWA BOARD AND STAFF 2024-2025

BOARD

Chair: Nia Parker

Deputy Chair: Hayley Warren

Treasurer: Jemma Henderson

Secretary: Kelly Wake

Board Members:

Emily McCain

Jason King

Aaron Crowther

James Shaddick

STAFF 2024- 2025

Chief Executive Officer: Cassandra Hughes

IT and Communications: Rachel Slevac

Senior Coordinator: Nikki Schwagermann

Family Support Officer:

Danica Bowes and Paula Salgado

Family Support Admin: Zali Stipanicev

Playgroup Coordinators:

Tracy Bicker, Renee Whiskin,

Karina Best, Anita Saxby

Playgroup Assistants:

Danica Bowes, Anita Saxby, Nicole Campher.

Employment Coordinator:

Stephanie Bryant and Lara Kitchen

Life Skills Lab Coordinator:

Alyssa Francis, Kern Routley

Aim High Coordinator: Laura Pinnell

FrienDS for Life Coordinator: Laura Pinnell

Kids Club Coordinator: Siobhan Painter

Family Support Officer: Danica Bowes



2024/2025 DSWA A YEAR IN NUMBERS

TOGETHER WE DELIVERED

EVENTS



201

Attendees at our
WDSD events

SOCIAL GROUPS



Ran 22 social
groups for people
with DS with

281

attendees

TOTAL CONTACTS



2027

Total Contacts 2027
broken up into:
Affiliates - 1249
Families - 1881
Individuals - 146
Non-Members - 140
Volunteers - 6

DS MEMBERS



566

Members with Down
Syndrome from 522 to 566

TRAINING SESSIONS



10

Provided 10 training
sessions for

441

educators, students,
professionals and
members!

CHRISTMAS PARTY



280

Approx. 280
people at our
Christmas party

BABY VISITS



24

Visited 24 new
babies and
their families

PLAYGROUPS

Ran 72 playgroup
sessions with

950

attendees



72

GALA EVENT



350

350 attendees at Gala

SOCIAL FOLLOWERS

4706 - Facebook
1432 - Instagram
469 - LinkedIn

6607
Total followers



StepUP Members

345

community
members

StepUP!
for Down
syndrome



Christmas Party
2024



Events

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The all of association Christmas party is continuing to grow with 278 people attending in 2024. The All Ages Christmas Party has continued to bring together old and new members to share the festive fun, enjoying games, music, dancing and delicious food.

MOTHER'S DAY PAINT AND SIP

34 mums of loved ones with Down Syndrome—ranging in age from just a few months to 21 years—came together for a heartwarming Mother's Day Paint and Sip evening. More than just painting and sipping, it was a night of laughter, connection, and shared stories, as old friendships were rekindled and new ones bloomed.





SEND professional learning session

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR EDUCATORS

Each year Down Syndrome WA hold a 1 day conference for Educators. The event this year, held at the Belmont Hub, attracted a range of teachers, education assistants and support staff. This is a critical workshop for anyone teaching and educating young people with Down Syndrome.

Held in February each year, 2025 attracted:

- 42 educators
- 5 presenters

The audience also enjoyed a presentation from Down Syndrome WA Advisory Network Member Brooke Canham.

DSWA also provides education sessions throughout the year to various schools, universities and other agencies, increasing awareness of working with children with Down Syndrome.



STEPUP 2024

StepUp is DSWA's major fundraising event and plays a vital role in supporting the organisation's operational needs. In 2024, we introduced **StepUP and Dance**, featuring six dance performances and interactive sessions for our members. It was a high-energy day made even better by a fantastic set from the amazing **DJ Incredible**, with **Cara** spinning all the favourite tunes and getting everyone on their feet.

Delivering **StepUp** to the community costs over \$13,000, making it a significant investment—and an essential part of DSWA's funding strategy. The Goal is to raise a net profit of \$30,000.

- 340 participants
- 250 hot dogs sold by the Dads group
- 6 interactive performers and dance groups
- Raised \$15,439



\$15,439 raised!



StepUP! for Down syndrome





WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

A very special day of the year for all of our members and families, where we celebrate and acknowledge the beautiful contribution they make to our community. This year was marked with a stunning morning tea at Government house, a fabulous family picnic attended by more than 120 people and of course the skies lit up across WA in Blue and Yellow to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. This is a key day to advocate and celebrate, bring members together and embrace multiple ways to share our message with the broader WA community.

- 120 people attended the World Syndrome Day family picnic
- 81 members and their family were invited to Government house for Morning Tea with His Excellency, the Governor Chris Dawson and Mrs Dawson who are joint patrons of DSWA
- 35 landmarks across WA were lit up in yellow and blue for WDSD



GALA

Fast becoming a pinnacle event for DSWA, the 2025 Gala, held in May at the Pan Pacific attracted over 350 guests. Entertained again by the wonderful DryCleaners Band, who donate their incredible talents and time to DSWA each year.

This year the event was hosted by the Down Syndrome WA Advisory Network for the first time. MC's were outstanding, holding the crowd, introducing guest speakers, entertaining and informing the audience with their life stories and anecdotes.

We are very grateful to the team at the Boxman for the decorations and ongoing support. The gala was a huge social event, attracting members, families, friends and supporters alike. It was also a successful fundraiser, raising \$39,000.

The highlight was seeing the members of the advisory network, stand up proudly to MC the Gala, it was inspiring for us to see what young people with Down Syndrome can achieve.



GALA 2025

Gala 2025 celebrated community, recognising the value and impact of connection within the Down Syndrome WA community.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Communication and connection have been high on the DSWA agenda for some time. Behind every story, event and update is the steady work of our Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) team, led by Rachel Slevac. This work ensures DSWA stays connected and visible to our community and supporters and is a secure organisation with good controls to support our work.



Rachel Slevac
IT and Communications
Down Syndrome WA

BUILDING CONNECTION

From newsletters to social media, our communication platforms keep members informed, families supported, and the broader community engaged.

- 603,084 Facebook views
- 35,040 LinkedIn impressions
- Instagram reach grew from 312 to 2,267.
- 959 e-News subscribers with an average 46% open rate
- 14 Community Facebook groups, including the new Peel and Wheatbelt Support Groups

These channels are not just information sources they provide a opportunity for connection, resources, awareness and advocacy for people with Down Syndrome, their families, and supporters across WA

As a team, we have carefully, and with a high level of governance begun using AI to support our work and improve our efficiency.

STRENGTHENING OUR SYSTEMS

A strong digital and technology foundation supports everything we do.

This year DSWA:

- Delivered major ICT and audio-visual upgrades with the support of an **\$11,000 Lotterywest grant**, improving our events and workshops
- Introduced new laptops, iPads, microphones and mobile phones to enhance accessibility and security
- Focused on cyber-safety and responsible technology use, with staff training and continuous review of DSWA's AI Policy, ensuring we remain leaders in this space

EMPOWERING THROUGH INFORMATION

Our website continues to be a key entry point for families, volunteers and supporters — attracting over 6,000 monthly views of DSWA news articles.



Matilda, making her
speech with the
new technology



Down Syndrome
Western Australia

STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE DSWA COMMUNITY AND TEAM ONLINE



WEBSITE

SOCIAL
MEDIA

E-NEWS

**KEEP UP TO DATE, GET THE LATEST NEWS,
FIND OUT ABOUT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

www.downsyndrome.org.au/wa/



FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support has continued to grow and develop this year. We extend our deepest thanks to Telethon 7 and the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation for their incredible support. Both organisation allow DSWA to deliver all services to the 0-17 year age groups.

The family support team, deliver a range of programs, activities and services to our DSWA families.

- Hospital outreach
- Regional outreach
- Parent and Bub morning teas
- Coordinating and delivering key DSWA events
- Overseeing KiDS club and FrienDS for Life
- And of course, delivering key family support, workshops, one to one meetings and fostering the network and connection of our community

The team has grown in the last 2 years with the support of our funders, to include a second Family support officer and administration support to the team.

Family support starts with prenatal and post natal visits and extends right through to teenage years. The team provide key resources and information, maintain information on the website, update the large number of specialty, closed Facebook groups to keep members informed and provide support, recommendations and assistance when families need it. The family support service is quick to respond to families and is also proactive in seeking out opportunities to deliver new and important information to families.



STAN PERRON
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

DSWA WOULD LIKE TO ACNKOWLEDGE TELETHON FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AND THANK THE STAN PERRON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO OUR 6-17 PROGRAM



“Providing support and advocacy for families.”



Family Support is led by Senior Coordinator- Nikki Schwagermann, Family Support Officer Paula Salgado and support officer Zali Stipanicev.

We wish to thank Danica Bowes for her contribution to the team. Danica and her family moved to the UK and we are grateful for the time she spent on our team.

Home visits from Guilderton to Gosnells -Phone, email, social media support

HOSPITAL OUTREACH

Hospital outreach at Perth Children's Hospital continues to provide vital support for families. Working alongside other agencies such as HeartKids, Kiind, Starlight Foundation, and Ronald McDonald House, our team has connected with families in NICU, Respiratory and Oncology wards—offering comfort, conversation, connection and care to families.

From providing meals and coffee with those unable to leave their child's side, to sitting in on appointments and fostering peer connections during hospital stays.

Hospital outreach extends to King Edward Memorial Hospital, Fiona Stanley, Joondalup where the team regularly provide early post natal support, provision of resources and referrals from the hospitals.





Peel Launch
Regional
Outreach



Mid West
regional catchup

**DSWA WOULD LIKE TO
ACKNOWLEDGE TELETHON AND
STAN PERRON CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION FOR THEIR
INCREDIBLE SUPPORT**

telethon 7



**STAN PERRON
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**

REGIONAL OUTREACH

The Regional Outreach program at DSWA continued to develop and this year;

- Regional Outreach has increased from 3 regions to 5 active regions
- The team launched Peel and Wheatbelt with 52 members attending the events
- Presentations have been delivered in the regions
- Community catchups have continued to grow

Regional Outreach has continued to grow and develop across all regions with members with Down Syndrome and their families coming together to connect, share stories and information and have a little fun. The MidWest and Great Southern groups are beginning to flourish. We look forward to more growth and activities in the Southwest in the coming year. We are grateful to the volunteers who work with the team to coordinate and deliver activities in their regions.

The regional Outreach program expanded with two new regions in 2025 thanks to an incredible grant from the ScrapHeap Ride, through DSA. The Peel and Wheatbelt launches were both strongly supported by City of Mandurah and Shire of Northam representatives and members of those communities. Regional Outreach continues to be an important focus and this year online presentations and activities have seen an increase in attendance from regional families.




Wheatbelt
Regional
Outreach Group

PARENT AND BUBS MORNING TEA

Parents and Bubs Morning Teas (formerly known as New Parent Morning Teas) continue to be very popular with our families of little ones aged 0-2 years. Providing a warm and safe space for our new parents to get to know each other and chat with the DSWA team, the morning teas are the start of many life long friendships and connections.

This year we also welcomed Hannah Moore from The Kids Research Institute and WANSLEA staff to share information with parents important to their children's wellbeing and support. We held 4 morning teas over the year in Wanneroo, Belmont, Baldivis and Cloverdale. 21 people attended the Wanneroo event which was our largest for the year.





Cassandra,
Kamahli &
Margaux

TESTIMONIAL

Our journey began when our 12 week scan showed clear markers for a high chance our baby would have Down Syndrome and congenital heart disease. We had lots of medical appointments and were presented with information about termination and given pamphlets for support of infant loss. Genetic counsellors provided us with daunting information on the multitude of medical complications that can occur from a child having an extra chromosome. Then I reached out to Down Syndrome WA and spoke to Nikki. It was wonderful to finally hear some positive stories around people with Down Syndrome. We had complete support from DSWA with whichever decision we would make and were put in contact with a family who had a similar experience. This peer support was invaluable, and I finally felt seen and heard in all my worries and overwhelming love I already had for this baby. We are so incredibly grateful for the peer support we received during pregnancy, connecting in with other mothers of children with Down Syndrome. Being able to share our experience alongside others that had walked similar journeys felt less isolating.

Upon arriving at PCH after Margaux was born, we were welcomed by familiar faces from Heart Kids and DSWA. I cannot explain in words how

much it meant to us to know they were there and could see us when no one else could visit. Knowing they were not scared by the cords and all the medical equipment meant we could just spend time together and make me feel human in the chaos. I could let my guard down and cry, be angry or laugh and share special milestones as Margaux made progress to getting home eventually. We spent over 4 months in hospital and going home felt very scary.

We had a very bumpy start, and I am so grateful to now be in a space where we are watching Margaux thrive. She is full of life and wonder, with a fierce determination engage with everyone she meets. We love to come to Perth and visit these wonderful ladies that really held us together through the toughest moments of our life. There have been multiple hospital admissions, surgeries, and clinic visits where all these wonderful people have supported us.

We are so lucky to be living in WA where these organisations have the support to continue their amazing work thanks to grants from Telethon. Forever grateful.

KAMAHLI AND MARGAUX

*Prenatal support, post-natal support,
PCH Outreach*



PLAYGROUPS

DSWA Playgroups provide a valuable support network for parents and carers, offering a space to connect and share experiences whilst providing mutual support, reducing isolation and feelings of powerlessness, and fostering and strengthening a sense of belonging.

PLAYGROUP NORTH

North playgroup had an amazing year, with a range of themes to set the scene for music, sensory and creative play and lessons that incorporate the range of sensory input categories; which means our children (and parents) engage fully in sessions that provide crucial development.

Vital connections have been made between parents over morning tea chats, sessions have provided essential information and support and therapists visits provided recommendations and ideas for families. The sharing that occurs, fosters deep connection and learning.



PLAYGROUP SOUTH

Playgroup South has had an active and engaging year, with a focus on making a difference in the lives of our youngest children and their families.

We have provided a safe and stimulating environment for children to develop social, emotional and cognitive skills through play while also providing support and connection for parents through a wide range of fun, engaging activities.

The activities and programs in the last year have provided opportunities for social interaction, learning new skills and developing language and communication and a focus on physical abilities concentrating on fine and gross motor skills.

PLAYGROUP EAST

Supported by a small grant from the City of Belmont, DSWA was able to deliver an East Playgroup. Held in Rivervale the new playgroup supports families living in the eastern suburbs and along the Darling scarp. East Playgroup currently operates monthly and is slowly building its numbers. The activities have included music, art, play, and importantly fostering family connections.

#DSWApplaygroup





Amanda & Ezra
Martin

TESTIMONIAL

We are beyond grateful to Down Syndrome WA (DSWA) and telethon for making our first year on this journey even more special. My husband Nathanael and myself have 7 amazing children, Ezra our youngest just celebrated his first birthday. Ezra had a wonderful day celebrating with family and friends, including his new friends from Down Syndrome WA.

During our first year on this beautiful journey, we have received amazing support from Down Syndrome WA. When Ezra was first diagnosed with Down Syndrome (DS), I reached out to the family support at DSWA and a home visit was arranged by the lovely Nikki. Nikki came out to our home, in the rural wheatbelt, with a welcome pack, a cute DS teddy, information booklets and most importantly moral support!!

It was a very welcomed experienced to have another mum come to my home, not only so I didn't have to travel with a newborn baby who was unable to feed well at this stage but to also give us a glimpse into how wonderful our future will be with Ezra having Down Syndrome. Will never ever forget that moment!! We also received a welcome gift basket from T21, how amazing to feel so welcomed whilst navigating a new journey.

We became DSWA members and were invited to playgroup North, where we have met amazing new friends that we are excited to do life with!! Ezra has enjoyed playing with new friends and loved having the sensory messy play visits. Ezra has been invited to birthday parties from DSWA playgroup friends as well as outings, it's so lovely. We were also invited to DSWA new parents' morning tea. DSWA supported us with accessing therapy services for Ezra, as he has hypotonia and had feeding issues. Emails and advocating on our behalf to the hospital as well as community access for therapy and early intervention.

This lead us to the IBIS program and now Ezra is receiving therapies in the community. We were also supported by DSWA during two hospital stays during the first year. We were gifted food, support and it was lovely knowing someone was there for us. A wonderful moment with DSWA for us was being a part of the DSWA calendar for 2025 and featuring our beautiful boy, Ezra. It was such a fun experience and something to treasure forever!!

AMANDA & EZRA MARTIN

Post-natal support and playgroups



KIDS CLUB (6-11 YEARS)

Throughout the year, the KiDS Club held a diverse range of activities, including two discos, an art workshop, Ninja Academy, a trip to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, parkour at Studio Dre, a big top circus event, a Yoga session, and a drumming workshop.

This year we have welcomed 10 new families to our KiDS Club community again this year, particularly those transitioning from Playgroup and families new to DSWA. As new families have joined us, we have also watched our young members transition to Friends for Life as we have watched their growth and development into their early teen years.



A notable highlight for the KiDS Club this year was the April event, a collaborative cooking class delivered by a DSWA member family. Daniel and his mum Debbie from Parties for Friends generously shared their expertise, teaching participants how to make pizzas.

KiDS Club continued to support DSWA-wide activities and events this year, fostering stronger relationships across the community. These initiatives included the DSWA Christmas Party, Step Up for Down Syndrome, and a disco specifically for all school-aged children. The disco, attended by 60 individuals, received positive feedback highlighting the importance of peer support and interaction.

KiDS Club has seen connection between families, and a strengthening of the DSWA community. We deeply appreciate the enthusiastic participation from all our families throughout the past year, with average attendance having increased from the 2023-2024 year.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and the wider community for their invaluable support this year. Continued support is vital in enabling us to further support our primary school aged children and strengthen the community, facilitating the creation of important lifelong friendships.

**DSWA EXTEND
OUR DEEPEST
GRATITUDE TO THE
STAN PERRON
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION
AND THE WIDER
COMMUNITY FOR
THEIR INVALUABLE
SUPPORT**



**STAN PERRON
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**





FRIENDS FOR LIFE (12-17 YEARS)

FrienDS for Life continues to be a key social and capacity building program for DSWA. It like Aim High was affected by the changes to NDIS group activity pricing requirements. With these changes, low numbers and high staffing costs, FrienDS for Life made a loss in 2024-2025. The program was revisited during the year, and a change to the model was implemented. Activities have continued to be offered, however the program is still under review.

A huge range of activities have been attended by members, including Art, Minigolf, Sailing, Mobius Gym session, Movies, Basketball, a combined school age disco and Karaoke.

It is important that this key social connection continue and with community input and attendance, we look forward to 2025-2026.



ADULT SOCIAL GROUP PROGRAMS

AIM HIGH AND GETAWAYS

In 2024-2025 the Adult social programs were impacted by a range of factors. Getaways were ceased due to changes in claimable charges for activities and Aim High was impacted by the NDIS change to group activity pricing.

Low numbers and high staffing costs and another change in staff, also resulted in Aim High making a loss in the 2025 financial year. This put the program under review. Aim High is a critical Social and Capacity program for DSWA's adult members. As an NDIS service this program was not able to break even due to low attendance numbers and high costs for staffing. We have continued to run monthly events, with members bringing their own supports which has ranged from parents, siblings, friend and paid support workers. This program must continue, and we are working hard to find a model (or funder) that is both sustainable and meets the needs of our members.

Getaways suffered dramatically with changes to pricing by the NDIS. We acknowledge the importance of the value of Getaways to building independence and the opportunity to spend time away with friends and supports who provide interactive opportunities for growth. 3 Getaways were held in the first half of the 2024/2025 year and both were very popular and successful.





EMPLOYMENT

The last 12 months saw some wonderful business connections, two successful ready for work programs and two more placements in open employment.

The ready for work program was well attended with 8 attendees over 2 courses throughout the year. We have engaged with 20 members seeking employment opportunities, who have diverse interests, skills and backgrounds, the team continue to drive forward to work with employers.

The program has continued to provide training and development opportunities. However the program has however struggled over the last 12 months to entice employers across the line to provide meaningful opportunities for DSWA members to take up open employment.

The program's success has been outstanding overall, however without willing employers, the program cannot deliver, and hence doesn't build the capacity and independence of members and support their right to work in open employment.



THE LIFE SKILLS LAB

THE LIFE SKILLS LAB PROJECT

In early 2025, DSWA launched The Life Skills Lab, a dynamic two-year initiative made possible through funding from a NDIS grant. This project is designed to support adults with Down Syndrome to become more independent, while also creating and sharing resources that will sustain learning and growth for years to come.

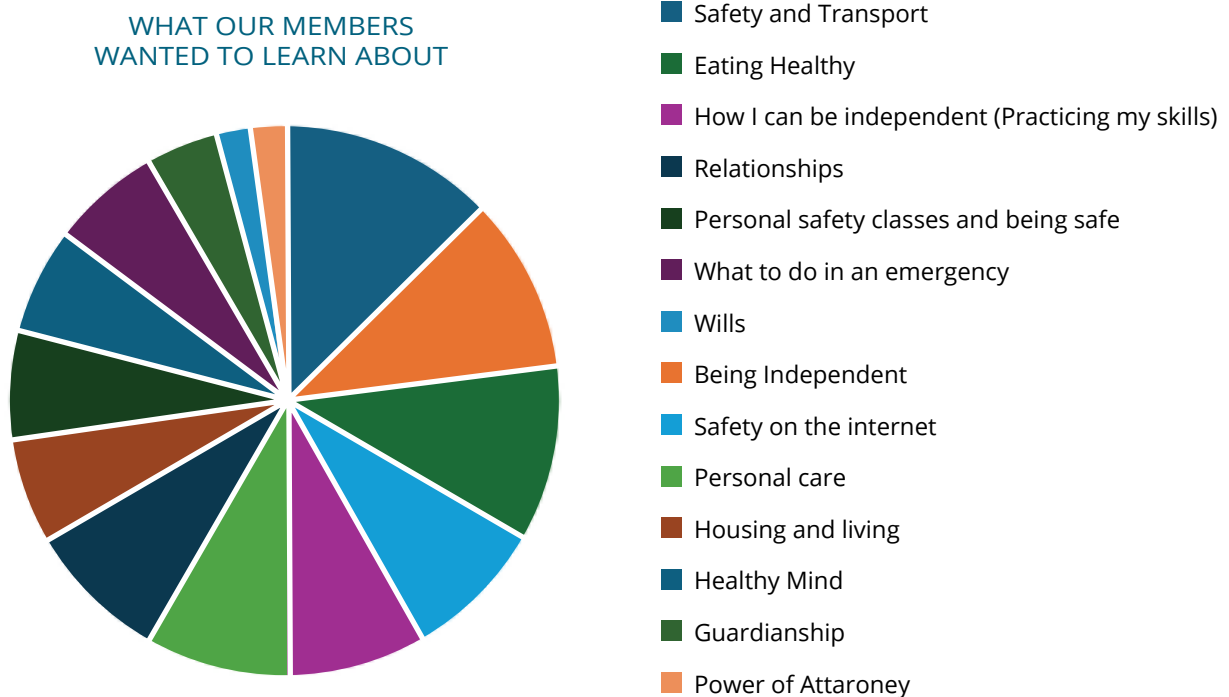
Genuine codesign is key to this project, and has already delivered opportunities for self-advocacy, peer mentorship, and leadership development. The DSWAAN members are heavily involved in codesign sessions mixed with other participants and parent surveys to help us understand what is needed. We conducted online safety survey completed by parents showed that 66% of parents were concerned that their loved ones had limited understanding of online scams. This information is very valuable as it directs our efforts and what workshops/webinars need to focus on.

“Empowering
Pathways to
independent lives,
living & aging”

LIFE SKILLS LAB FORUM – 2024–2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Life Skills Lab Forum, held in June 2025. Over 55 people attended the forum. The day included engaging discussions and interactive activities that supported both adults with Down Syndrome and their families in navigating important life transitions.

All topics covered during the forum were chosen by our community and reflected the real needs and interests of participants.



The event provided not only valuable information but also a strong sense of shared experience through panel discussions on housing and living and group activities such as goal setting.

LIFE SKILLS LAB

Since the Forum we have had five DSWAAN Codesign sessions. These sessions focused on developing workshops and key resources on Public Transport, Online Safety and Goal setting, all of which will be delivered in 2025.

"SHOW US HOW TO DO IT AND WE CAN DO IT"

These sessions will provide deep learning opportunities and offer long-term impact for our adult members and their families. This project will lay a foundation for others to follow in years to come and gathering information is essential to support our reapplication for grants. We look forward to your ongoing support and to a successful 2025-2026 together.



COLLABORATION & SUPPORT

“The greatest successes we will have is when we work together to achieve a goal we both believe in.”

MAJOR DONORS

Forty Winks
Dry Cleaners Band
Dylan J King Music

SUPPORT & PARTNERSHIPS

Sensorium Theatre
NDIS
The Boxman
Synergy Graphics
Push Consulting

Glenway Signs
Globe 24-7
The Perth Mint
Murdoch University

FUNDERS

Telethon
Stan Perron Charitable Foundation
Down Syndrome Australia
Lottery West
City of Belmont



STAN PERRON
*CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION*





Down Syndrome
Western Australia

Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC)

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

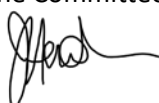
The committee have determined that the association is not-for-profit and is not a reporting entity.

The committee have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Down Syndrome Association of WA (Inc). as at 30 June 2025 and its financial performance for the year ended on that date;
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Down Syndrome Association of WA (Inc) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due; and
3. The financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Association Incorporation Act 2015 (WA), Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Dated this day: 4th October 2025

Jemma Henderson
TREASURER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Assets	2025	2024
Bank Accounts		
Cheque Account	207,124	59,314
BOQ Unspent Grants Reserve	233,326	233,471
BOQ Special Purpose Reserve	42,827	6,331
BOQ General Reserve	185,310	120,891
DSWA Unspent Grant Funding	0	2
Term Deposit	140,000	135,929
Total Bank Accounts	808,587	555,938
Current Assets		
Clearing Accounts	6,881	7,839
Accounts Receivable	3,674	23,093
Prepayments	10,755	16,829
Computing Equipment	15,657	8,994
Less Accumulated Depreciation - Computing Equip	(15,657)	(8,994)
Office Equipment	10,456	181
Less Accumulated Depreciation - Office Equipment	(10,456)	0
Total Current Assets	21,309	47,942
Total Assets	829,896	603,880
Liabilities Current		
Accounts Payable	8,650	17,889
PAYG Withholding	6,923	7,490
Superannuation Payable	1,630	5,033
GST	12,208	(2,952)
Provision for Annual Leave	33,819	26,347
Provision for Long Service Leave	14,443	16,313
Prepaid Revenue	25	2,631
Grant Funding Unspent	339,847	256,063
Suspense	0	(690)
Rounding	0	0
Total Liabilities Current	417,545	328,123
Net Assets	412,352	275,757
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	56,595	76,019
Retained Earnings	355,757	199,738
Total Equity	412,352	275,757

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Income	2025	2024
Grants Revenue	571,197	432,164
Donations Received	73,879	68,463
Trading Activities		
Sales - Merchandise		
Merchandise Sales	8,057	5,404
Total Sales - Merchandise	8,057	5,404
Total Trading Activities	8,057	5,404
Operating Activities		
Fees & Charges	6,951	0
Training & Support	13,636	15,355
Program/Peer Support Fees	269,367	331,120
Sponsorship	909	5,674
Total Operating Activities	290,864	352,149
Other Income		
Interest Unrestricted	9,334	5,874
Total Other Income	9,334	5,874
Total Income	953,331	864,055
Expenses		
Personnel		
Wages Salaries & Super	582,255	552,276
Staff Training & Development	8,307	0
Total Personnel	590,563	552,276
Fees/Charges & Licenses	2,345	2,983
Operating Costs		
Events & Activities	130,929	122,427
Travel & Accommodation		
Travel Expenses	10,625	20,530
Total Travel & Accommodation	10,625	20,530
Advertising & Promotion	1,305	2,597
Total Operating Costs	142,859	145,554
Administration		
Office & Executive	79,295	19,038
Audit Fees	7,899	6,212
Rent - Property	24,507	20,212
Professional Services	34,985	25,578
Insurance Public Liability & WC	14,284	16,182
Total Administration	160,970	87,222
Total Expenses	896,736	788,036
Operating (Deficit) / Surplus	56,595	76,019

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Equity	2025	2024
Opening Balance	275,757	199,738
Current Year Earnings	56,595	76,019
Retained Earnings	80,000	0
Total Equity	412,352	275,757

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Operating Activities	Notes	2025	2024
Receipts from customers		974,008	863,178
Payments to suppliers and employees		(905,312)	(790,651)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	2b	30,618	9,796
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		99,313	82,323
Investing Activities			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		2,940	0
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(19,878)	(181)
Other cash items from investing activities		5,648	0
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		(11,290)	(181)
Financing Activities			
Other cash items from financing activities		163,667	89,732
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		163,667	89,732
Net Cash Flows		251,691	171,874
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		563,777	391,903
Net change in cash for period		251,691	171,874
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	2a	815,468	563,777

NOTES TO AND PART OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

ATTACHED NOTES FORM PART OF THE STATEMENT

NOTE 1 – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirement of the *Australian Charities and Not-for- Profits Commission Act 2012 and Australian Charities and Not- for Profits Commission regulations 2013*. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and therefore there is no requirement to apply accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in the preparation of these statements.

The association is a not-for-profit entity, and the statements are prepared on an accrual basis.

a) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

b) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

c) Trade and other payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

d) Trade and other receivables

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses.

e) Employee Entitlements

The provision for employee benefits relates to the amount liable to be paid for the long service leave and annual leave resulting from employee services provided to balance date. All entitlements are calculated at their nominal amounts using remuneration rates and expected to be settled within one year.

f) Comparative Information

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

g) Operating Grants and Donations

When the Association received operating grant revenue and donations.

It assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Association:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant – recognises a contract liability for its
- obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations. Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Entity:

NOTE 1 – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT)

- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Entity recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

NOTE 2 - CASHFLOW INFORMATION

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at bank.

a. Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2025	2024
Cash and Cash Equivalents	815,468	563,777

	2025	2024
b. Profit	<u>56,595</u>	<u>76,641</u>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	26,113	-
Interest Expense	-	994
(Increase)/ Decrease in trade and other receivables	25,496	69,176
Increase/ (Decrease) in trade and other payables	<u>63,490</u>	<u>26,057</u>
Cash flow used in operations	<u>171,690</u>	<u>171,874</u>

NOTE 3 - CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

The association has no capital commitments as at 30 June 2025. The Association has a lease in place for the rental of office space at U4, L2, 213 Wright St, Cloverdale WA. The three-year lease commenced on 9 December 2024 and will expire on 8 December 2027. The annual rent is \$27,269 inclusive of GST.

NOTE 4 - POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

No matters or circumstances has arisen since 30 June 2025 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the association's operations, the results of those operations or the association's state of affairs in future financial years.

NOTE 5 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related party	Relationship	Nature of transaction	Amount	Balance at 30 June 2025	Terms
Zali Stipanicev	Daughter of CEO	Employee	\$45,858.31	\$0.00	Fortnightly

At year end, amounts receivable from related parties were **nil** and amounts payable were **nil**, all unsecured. No impairment was recognised on related party receivables. All related party transactions were declared, considered and approved by the Board, and the decisions were recorded in the board minutes. All related party transactions during the year were conducted on normal commercial terms and conditions at arm's length.

**Down Syndrome Association of Western
Australia Inc.**

**Independent Audit Report to the members of Down Syndrome
Association of Western Australia Inc.**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Down Syndrome Association of Western Australia Inc. (the Association), which comprises the statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss, 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 statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2025 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015.

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 the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other 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 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the Corporations Act 2001. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

**Down Syndrome Association of Western
Australia Inc.**

**Independent Audit Report to the members of Down Syndrome
Association of Western Australia Inc.**

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 the 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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the 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 Association's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.

Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's 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 Association'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 reporter, 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 Association 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 the management 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.

We also provide the management with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.



**Down Syndrome Association of Western
Australia Inc.**

**Independent Audit Report to the members of Down Syndrome
Association of Western Australia Inc.**

Daniel Papaphotis CPA
Registered Company
Auditor
- 410503
Francis A Jones Pty Ltd
154 High Street
Fremantle WA 6160

6 October 2025



TEENS
HOLIDAY
PROGRAM



Down Syndrome
Western Australia



www.downsyndrome.org.au/wa