



Special Olympics
Australia



2022 IMPACT REPORT



Special
Olympics
Australia

CONTENTS

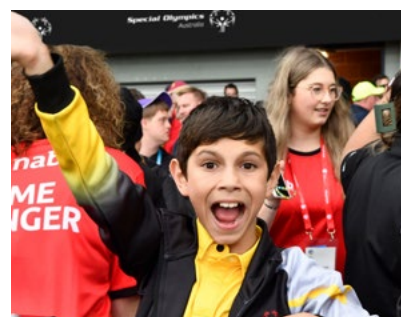
ABOUT US	3
WELCOME	4
FROM THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION	6
SPORT, COMPETITION AND MORE.....	7
COPING WITH COVID.....	10
SPOTLIGHT ON THE NATIONAL GAMES	11
TEAM AUSTRALIA 2023.....	16
WORLD GAMES BID, 2027	17
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS WITH IGA.....	18
THANK YOU PETER OVERTON	19
20 YEARS OF TORCH RUN!.....	20
EVENTS.....	21
THANK YOU	23
PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS	24
LEADERSHIP	25
WAYS YOU CAN HELP	26
CHOOSE TO INCLUDE	27
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022.....	28
OUR HEART AND SOUL	29

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This annual Impact Report covers the period from 1 January – 31 December 2022.

Meet Adriano

After a week of athletics competition at the National Games in Launceston, Adriano from WA soaked up the atmosphere at the Closing Ceremony. This was Adriano's first National Games and at just ten-years-old, he was the youngest competitor of the 750 athletes who competed. Adriano's older sister Claudia also made her competition debut in Launceston and they both returned home with a swag of medals, including gold for the 4x100m mixed relay in which they competed together. Their proud parents, grandparents and little sister were in Launceston to cheer them on.



ABOUT US

Special Olympics Australia is part of a global movement which brings sport, joy and inclusion to people with intellectual disability and autism – the largest disability group in Australia of 850,000 people.

We offer a range of programs that help them discover their talents, have fun and make friends. While our main focus is regular sports training and competition, our programs include early intervention, physical literacy, leadership, healthy communities, volunteering and coaching, school sport and online learning.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

- Celebration of milestone anniversaries with IGA, Peter Overton and Law Enforcement Torch Run
- Implementation of a nationwide Safe Return to Sport strategy following easing of COVID restrictions
- Delivery of the 2022 National Games and Youth Carnivals presented by NAB
- Completion of Inclusive Sport in Schools pilot in NSW – reaching 18,666 students in 286 schools – 86% above target
- Return to national fundraising activities including the MCG Sports Lunch and SPLASH!
- Rebrand and launch of our online learning platform, Inclusive Sport Academy
- Selection and announcement of Team Australia for the World Games 2023
- Submission and progression of the 2027 World Games Bid



3,220
athletes



3,134
affiliated participants

36,549
school participants



1,349
volunteers



349
coaches



46
accredited clubs

150
affiliated clubs



6,890
Inclusive Sports
Academy students



WELCOME

FROM THE CHAIR

For almost 50 years, Special Olympics Australia has transformed the lives of people with an intellectual disability and autism through sport and inclusion, but with 850,000 Australians living with an intellectual disability we have more to do.



The focus of the Board is on increasing our reach and quality of our programs, while ensuring we have a sustainable business that will bring joy to more athletes for decades to come.

While 2022 has been another challenging year for everyone in the Special Olympics community, I am inspired by the courage and determination of the many athletes who showed their talents at the 2022 National Games – possibly our most anticipated celebration ever. Thank you to our principal partner NAB, and to everyone who provided the funding, resources and support to make this incredible event happen.

Looking forward, we remain focused on developing ways to adapt our programs for a post-COVID environment where safety remains a priority, and we continue to look at ways to work within the NDIS framework which provides support to many of our families.

On behalf of the Board, I say farewell to a great supporter of Special Olympics athletes – Michael Hogan – who completed his tenure on the Board this year. I am equally delighted to welcome Keiran Corry to the Board. Keiran is an accomplished Special Olympics athlete and Athlete Leader who adds an additional athlete perspective as we seek to grow and sustain our movement.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Special Olympics Australia community and thank you also to everyone who is supportive of helping it grow so that more athletes can feel the joy of sport and inclusion.

Cameron Brownjohn
Chair
Special Olympics Australia



FROM THE CEO

2022 was another challenging year for everyone as we continued to navigate the COVID pandemic.

Athletes displayed tremendous perseverance while living in lockdown, having sports training cancelled, and finding themselves isolated from social connections.

For those athletes selected for the National Games, another big challenge was how to find new ways to train and prepare for the pinnacle event on our competition calendar.

Thanks to our dedicated coaches and the clubs who support them, we were able to provide the safe environments needed to get athletes back to training which meant they could reconnect with a regular routine.

There were plenty of precautions and we implemented our COVID-safe guidelines to help us return to sport and maintain a balance between caution and connection. We produced a range of resources to help our community understand the steps to make events and training as safe as possible.

At one point we strongly considered having to cancel the National Games, though I'm thankful we didn't. After extensive work with sport and health industries to ensure our National Games would be held in a safe environment we enjoyed an unforgettable experience with high-quality competition, great venues and cheering fans.

From 17-21 October, 750 athletes, over 600 volunteers and thousands of spectators came together in Launceston to celebrate sport and inclusion. The Opening Ceremony was an extravaganza of colour, music and all of the traditions of a major Games, including the lighting of the Cauldron which almost raised the roof off the Silverdome!

The City of Launceston was a wonderful host with locals embracing our athletes and families, just as they had when they hosted the first ever Special Olympics Australia National Games in Launceston in 1986.



Thanks to our Presenting Partner, NAB, for making the National Games a reality and giving our athletes their time to shine. This was possibly our most anticipated National Games ever. It was our first chance in a long time to meet, connect and thrive, and I'm delighted to share some highlights in this Impact Report.

2022 was my first full year in the role of CEO and I'm pleased to tell you about the many other achievements that saw us moving forward while we adapted to new ways of working, connecting and delivering our programs and services.

We returned to hosting major fundraising events including the MCG Sports Lunch, the Inspirational Women's Breakfast, and the iconic SPLASH corporate swim challenge. Importantly, we also celebrated the 30-year anniversary of our partnership with IGA.

We partnered with 11 National Sporting Organisations to deliver programs in schools, train and develop coaches, and deliver more competition opportunities like the inaugural inclusion of a Special Olympics division in the Gymnastics Australia National Club Championships.

These partnerships were further supported by our rebranding and launch of the Inclusive Sport Academy – our online learning platform.

Our Inclusive Sport in Schools program flourished, with 597 programs delivered to 36,549 students. We even hosted a series of NAB Junior Carnivals right across Australia to connect with first-time participants through a range of fun, games-based activities.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our army of volunteers and my incredible team at Special Olympics Australia. Thank you all for your dedication to the cause.

To athletes, families, volunteers, coaches, and staff, I wish you a prosperous and joyful year ahead.

Pierre Comis
Chief Executive Officer
Special Olympics Australia

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

Sport has a place for everyone and delivers results that make Australia proud. This is the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) vision as we embark on a defining era in Australian sport over the next decade and beyond.



We are setting out to lead, support and provide opportunities for all communities to be involved in sport, while growing elite success and representation, inspiring future generations.

Our role, as the Australian Government agency responsible for supporting and investing in sport at all levels, is to increase involvement in sport and enable continued international sporting success. We do this through leadership and development of a cohesive and effective sports sector, targeted financial support and the operation of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

We play a unique role in the sport ecosystem and tackle the big challenges and opportunities with and for the sector. We're proud to do so and through our vision, we aim to bring out the best in everyone involved in sport as we establish Australia as the world's best sporting nation.

The 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games provided a perfect launch pad for our athletes to shine. To finish on top of the medal table with 67 gold and cement our status as the most successful nation in the event's history sets us up brilliantly as we look to host the next Games in Victoria 2026.

This is a defining era for Australian sport. We have begun the green and gold decade to Brisbane 2032, and we are focused on building sustainable success for decades to come.

The sporting strategies, programs, and facilities we deliver now have the capacity to shape Australia's long-term prosperity, well beyond sporting boundaries. A thriving Australian sport system is enormously influential to a thriving Australia.

We will advocate for sport and its positive influence on Australia, promote and support inclusive and diverse sporting environments and drive thought leadership and innovation to inspire world's best practices.

We will build the capability of sport and the people involved through projects like our Sport Volunteer Coalition Action Plan which outlines a new approach to foster positive, safe and fulfilling experiences for sport volunteers, and our Women Leaders in Sport programs which champion equal representation in sport.

This is an incredible opportunity to unite and inspire Australia through sport as we capitalise on the calendar of major sporting events on the road to a home Olympic and Paralympic Games.

On behalf of the ASC, thank you to everyone who contributes to Australian sport with the aim of making it better for all.

Josephine Sukkar AM
Chair
Australian Sports Commission



SPORT, COMPETITION AND MORE

Special Olympics Australia brings the joy of sport to children and adults with intellectual disability and autism. But that's not all we offer. Our suite of programs reflects our desire for an inclusive Australia where people with intellectual disability and autism are valued and connected to their local community.

Sport

We give people with intellectual disability and autism the opportunity to participate in weekly sports training in one or more of our official sports. The sports we offer in Australia are athletics, basketball, bocce, cricket, equestrian, football (soccer), golf, gymnastics, netball, sailing, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, tenpin bowling and winter sports (skiing and snowboarding). Our weekly sports training program includes skills-development, goal setting and preparation for competition.

Competition

Special Olympics athletes can progress from local to international competition – and they don't have to be elite competitors. All athletes can climb the competition ladder because our competitions are structured by divisions – a type of classification where athletes compete against others of similar ability. Competition is an important part of the Special Olympics experience because it provides athletes with opportunities to demonstrate their skills and feel proud of what they can achieve.

The peak of our domestic competition pathway is the National Games, which is held every four years. Our 2022 National Games was one of the highlights of the year.

More

Outside of weekly sports training and competition pathways, there are a suite of programs and services Special Olympics Australia offer and they are expanding.

Young athletes

Our Young Athletes program focuses on play-based activities to support social and physical growth for children with and without disability aged 2-8. It is fun, active, and inclusive. In 2022, there were 1,726 participants.



SPORT, COMPETITION AND MORE

Playing for all

Playing for All is a games-based program for youth (8-17) and adults (18+) with and without disability. It helps them get active, make friends, and have fun while learning important life skills. With the success of our Playing for All participation program in schools, in 2022 we redesigned the program to include activities that reinforce social and personal development skills, and healthy living. The program is designed for participants of all ages and is part of our suite of sport and physical activity offerings.

Inclusive Sport in Schools

The Inclusive Sport in Schools program improves the health and wellbeing outcomes of students with an intellectual disability and autism through the delivery of inclusive sport and physical activity in a school setting.

The program increases the skills of teachers, coaches, and volunteers to provide better programs for students, underpinned by the principles of physical literacy, creating meaningful experiences that demystify intellectual disability and promote lifelong participation in sport and physical activity.. In 2022, we ran 597 programs with 36,549 participants.

Unified Sport

Through Unified Sport, people with and without disability come together to train and compete. The program promotes social inclusion and is inspired by the simple belief that playing together is a quick path to acceptance and understanding.

Athlete Leadership

Through Athlete Leadership we empower athletes to find their voices and make choices. We help them develop self-advocacy and leadership skills with the support of trained mentors, dedicated workshops and community engagement opportunities. In 2022:

- 29 athletes in WA, SA and Victoria completed leadership training
- Athlete Leader, Keiran Corry joined the Board of Special Olympics Australia
- 5 athlete leaders attended the National Games as Special Olympics Ambassadors
- Athlete Leader and Special Olympics Australia Board Member, Ruby Lawler, was elected co-Chair of the Regional Athlete Leadership Council for Special Olympics Asia Pacific. Ruby will also attend the Global Athlete Leadership Congress during the Special Olympics World Games in 2023.



Healthy Communities

In 2022, our goal of improving the health of Special Olympics participants was realised through the sharing of #inclusivehealth messaging that promoted healthy living including strong minds, healthy eating, hydration, and the importance of warm up and cool down exercises. We also began training athletes to become health messengers, filmed local athletes demonstrating Fit5 fitness activities, and shared Fit5 training to our online community.

Inclusive Sport Academy

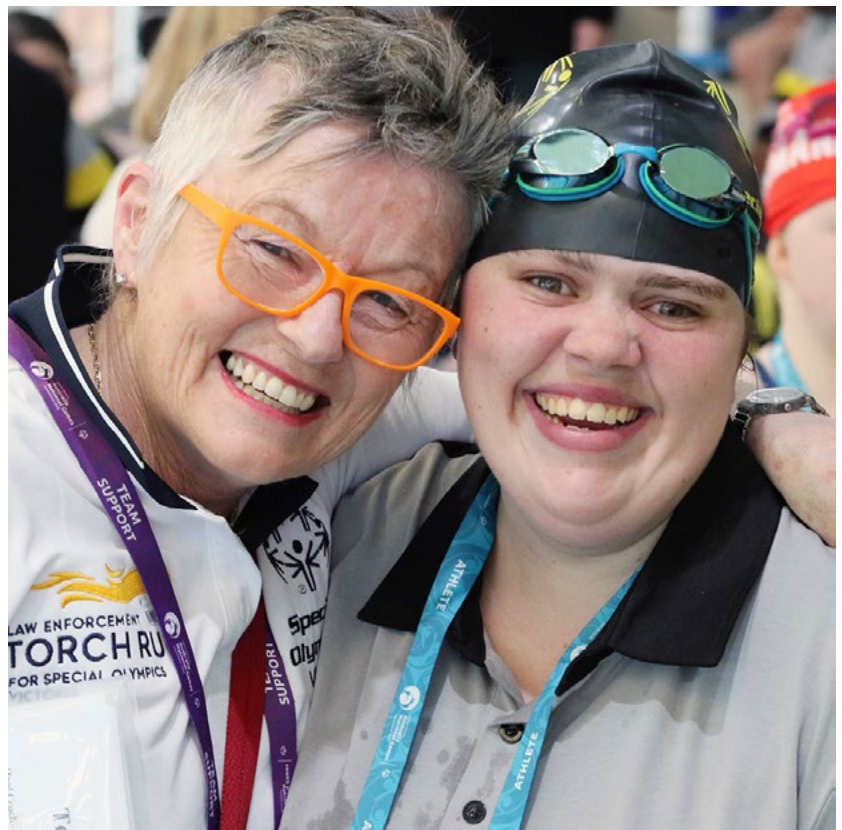
The Inclusive Sport Academy is Special Olympics Australia's online learning platform which provides an important knowledge base for those wishing to deliver sport and physical activity to people with intellectual disability and autism. Our modules cover the basic principles, techniques, and tools to effectively coach, teach and guide people with intellectual disability and autism. Inclusive Sport Academy, the re-branded platform replacing SOA Learn, was launched in February 2022 and by the end of the year we had 6,800 learners who completed over 800 courses including two popular new modules: Volunteer Induction and Improving Physical Literacy for People with Intellectual Disability.

Volunteering

Volunteers play a role at all levels of our organisation. They are coaches, officials, event organisers, fundraisers, administrators and community leaders. Some give their time at a local club on a weekly basis, others participate at events, and many help whenever and wherever they're needed.

Affiliates

Our Affiliate Program is how we help sporting groups offer an inclusive environment for people with intellectual disability and autism within their community. The program aims to build strong and long-term relationships between Special Olympics Australia and the sporting community.



COPING WITH COVID

Around Australia everyone faced the challenges of COVID-19. On many occasions we were restricted in where we could go and our regular routines, including sports training and competition, were cancelled or severely disrupted.

It was obvious to us from early on that our usual Special Olympics Australia activities would have to be placed on hold, particularly as people with intellectual disability are considered vulnerable. So, during that period of hiatus we worked with experts, including health experts to establish the criteria for a safe and staged return to sport.

RETURN TO SPORT CLUBHOUSE

The Return to Sport Clubhouse on the Special Olympics Australia website was designed to be a one-stop-shop to COVID-safety for the Special Olympics community. It included our COVID policies, relevant guidelines for athletes and volunteers, as well as links to state and territory health authority information.

YOUTH CARNIVALS

After the Junior National Games were cancelled in 2021 due to COVID, we developed inclusive, state-based carnivals for primary school students which continued in 2022 when restrictions would allow. Called Youth Carnivals, these events were made possible thanks to the support of NAB and Gallagher.

At each Youth Carnival, young participants were able to experience different sports led by an accredited coach who were supported by corporate volunteers. Students were also able to enjoy the traditions of Special Olympics competition, like the Law Enforcement Torch Run which is always a highlight of Special Olympics competition.



Participants at the Special Olympics Australia Youth Carnival held in Newcastle, NSW.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NATIONAL GAMES

NATIONAL GAMES STATISTICS

17-21 October 2022



750
athletes



600
volunteers



9
sports



5
days

Memories for a lifetime!

NATIONAL GAMES JOURNEY



Home of the National Games

Launceston hosted the first-ever National Games in Australia in 1986. Four people who participated at the first Games participated again in 2022, proving that Special Olympics is a place to grow and prosper. They were athletes Stacey Smith (NSW), Lyn Tanner (TAS) and Peter Thomas (VIC, pictured) and volunteer official, Debbie Knust (QLD).



COVID-safe Games

After another challenging year, the National Games was the celebration everyone needed, and COVID-safety was a priority. There were 7,000 masks, 2,000 bottles of hand sanitiser, 1,200 RAT tests and promotional material at all venues to give guidance on how to stay COVID-safe.



Games logo

The National Games logo was created by Launceston designer, Kate Stokes. Kate was inspired by the peacocks of Cataract Gorge and her two nephews who have intellectual disability, hence the two figures set against a stylised peacock feather.



Flame of Hope

One of the highlights of any National Games is the Law Enforcement Torch Run. The Torch Run departs from the previous Host City to the new one. In 2022, the Flame of Hope was carried by police officers through cheering crowds from Adelaide to Melbourne to Hobart, before finally landing in Launceston for the Opening Ceremony.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NATIONAL GAMES

NATIONAL GAMES JOURNEY (CONTD.)



Presenting Partner

After two challenging years, our Presenting Partner of the National Games – NAB – were delighted to see this major event finally come to life and they were very proud supporters at venues throughout the event.



Opening Ceremony

The National Games were declared open by Pierre Comis, CEO of Special Olympics Australia at a spectacular Opening Ceremony which included all the traditions of an Olympic event like the Parade of Athletes, raising of the flag, reciting of oaths, Torch Run and the lighting of the Cauldron. For the first time the entire Ceremony was live-streamed and you can watch it [here](#)



In the news

During the National Games, Special Olympics Australia featured on the front page of The Examiner – twice. In total, we earned 73 media items with an estimated audience of over 1.5 million.



Volunteers

Over 600 volunteers, known as NAB Game Changers, played a vital role in providing an exceptional experience for athletes, families and spectators. Their happy faces could be found at all venues. Out at the track the volunteers even took part in a friendly relay which delighted athletes and spectators.

Honoured guests



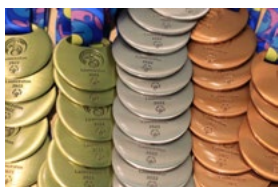
Minister Shorten

Minister, Bill Shorten was an honoured guest at the Opening Ceremony and athletes were delighted to say hello.



Daria Varlamova

Our newest Ambassador Daria Varlamova, Miss Universe Australia 2021 also presented medals, gave speeches and even played a round of Unified golf!



Medals

As the pinnacle of Special Olympics sport in Australia, our National Games medals were designed with prestige in mind.

Closing celebration

After a wonderful week of sporting prowess, athletes came together for one last celebration – the Closing Ceremony. His Excellency, the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Mr David Hurley, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley were honoured guests at the Ceremony and once the Cauldron was extinguished, they happily mingled with athletes.



From Australia to Berlin in 2023

From the National Games a team of 64 athletes and 28 officials were selected to represent Australia at the Special Olympics World Games in 2023. The team was announced in December 2022 and 96% of the athletes selected will wear the green and gold for Australia for the first time, including Oliver King who is the youngest member of the team. Oliver will compete in equestrian.

Highlights

To experience the joy of the National Games 2022, [click here](#) to watch some highlights.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE NATIONAL GAMES

Games experience

At the 2022 National Games, athletes were finally able to come together once again to compete, make friends and demonstrate their abilities in front of families, friends and fans...and everyone loved it! According to the 2022 National Games Experience & Tourism Report by Painted Dog Research, 91% of athletes and 94% of volunteers were satisfied with their National Games experience in Launceston.



Local experience

Jacqui Spencer from Launceston (pictured) was one of the many local volunteers who enjoyed the National Games. She was rostered at Launceston Aquatics Centre where she greeted guests, posted results and made sure athletes and families had the safest and most enjoyable Games experience.

Jacqui trained and competed with Special Olympics Australia for 20 years but retired after representing Team Tasmania in swimming at the National Games in Melbourne in 2014. She was delighted to be involved at a National Games again, just in a different role and she wore her new uniform with pride.



When the National Games came to an end, Special Olympics Australia received this beautiful note from a Launceston local.

I hope this message might reach someone and be the encouragement they need. I'm an Uber driver in Launceston. Over the years I've seen many tourists and locals in my Uber. It was an absolute pleasure to have your athletes and their families in our beautiful city. While the athletes mostly moved around on buses, I often saw them exploring Launceston and you could see their smiles and excitement from a mile away. I had the pleasure of having many families of athletes in my Uber and every one of them were beaming with pride.

As someone who grew up as a special needs child and has special needs relatives, there was a certain sentimentality in seeing the inclusiveness alive in our city. I hope that the organisers, staff, volunteers, athletes and their families all had an amazing time and enjoyed exploring Launceston. I hope to see you come back again.

Until next time, Cameron x

TEAM AUSTRALIA 2023



In December 2022, we announced the athletes selected for Team Australia (pictured) to compete at the Special Olympics World Games.

The World Games 2023 will be the largest and most inclusive sporting event on the planet for the year with over 7,000 athletes with an intellectual disability from 180 delegations set to compete in Berlin from 17-25 June.

Team Australia has 64 athletes who will compete across nine sports – athletics, basketball bocce, bowling, golf, equestrian, gymnastics, swimming, tennis – and they will be supported by 28 volunteer officials.

Over 96% of athletes will represent Australia for the first time.

Special Olympics Australia CEO Pierre Comis said, "The athletes who have been selected for Team Australia have trained hard to earn a place on the team and they are rightly proud and excited! Please help us cheer on these incredible athletes and follow their journey to the World Games. Your heart will be warmed by the amazing things they can do on the court, on the track, in the pool, on the field, on the lanes and in the gym. Team Australia will show you what athletes with an intellectual disability are capable of when they are supported and included. You'll be amazed and inspired."



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WORLD GAMES
BERLIN 2023

WORLD GAMES BID, 2027



It was a big year for the team with the submission of a bid to host the Special Olympics World Games in Perth in 2027. If successful, it will be the first World Games in the southern hemisphere and a transformational event for Special Olympics Australia.

The vision is to *change views, change lives, change our nation and change the world*. In addition to a celebration of inclusion in 2027, it is the difference we want the World Games to make for people with intellectual disability across Australia.

In July, the World Games Perth 2027 bid team were in the final stages of submitting the bid to Special Olympics International (SOI). In a post COVID environment of uncertain economic outlook, and rapidly changing

security concerns, securing Government commitment for an event still five years in the future proved challenging and so the bid was submitted without secure financial commitment from either the WA State Government or Federal Government.

Submission of the bid document was the culmination of over two years work by a dedicated team supported by countless donors and volunteer advisors from across the sport, community, government, commercial and philanthropic sectors.

Our bid was accepted as compliant for consideration and SOI commended it as the most technically excellent bid they had received for any Games.

Following a site visit to Perth in October 2022 and attendance at the Special Olympics Australia National Games in Launceston, SOI indicated that Perth was the preferred host city for the 2027 World Games – a tremendous achievement by all the people who have supported this project over the last three years. We particularly want to thank the SOWA State Committee for their commitment and leadership throughout this process.

Since November, the World Games Perth 2027 team has been engaged in discussion with both the WA State Government and the Federal Government. Memorandums of Understanding with organisations across the corporate sector have been signed to progress the commercial partnerships needed to secure the event. We continue to receive letters of support from across the community and we are looking forward to the 2023 World Games in Berlin in June.



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS WITH IGA

In 2022, Special Olympics Australia celebrated our 30-year partnership with IGA (Metcash Food) who have been a Major Partner with us since 1992. This long-term partnership demonstrates IGA's commitment to athletes with intellectual disability and autism in local communities across Australia.

In May 2022, IGA ran their annual Community Chest campaign where the sale of selected products benefits Special Olympics Australia. The year the campaign featured actor, comedian and IGA Ambassador, Shane Jacobson alongside Special Olympics Australia athlete Harry Sencek (pictured). Over the three-week promotion period IGA customers raised over \$222,000 for Special Olympics Australia. Watch the campaign video starring Shane and Harry [here](#)



Over the year, IGA contributed a generous \$350,000 to Special Olympics Australia.

They were also Major Partners of the National Games in Launceston and donated fresh fruit and water to meet the needs of 750 athletes and over 600 volunteers over seven days.

IGA is committed to genuine inclusion of people with intellectual disability and autism and IGA stores also employ Special Olympics athletes across Australia. Ariana is a Special Olympics athlete with a local club in Queensland. Ariana tried work experience with IGA and has now progressed to full employment. She works part time packing shelves, checking use-by dates and serving customers... **AND SHE LOVES IT!**



Special Olympics Australia athlete Ariana on the job at her local IGA in Queensland.

THANK YOU PETER OVERTON



Peter Overton from the Nine Network has been an Ambassador of Special Olympics Australia for 21 years! He continues to generously and passionately give his time to support the athletes of Special Olympics Australia.

Peter became the first national Ambassador for Special Olympics Australia in December 2001 and has regularly supported athletes at competitions and events ever since.

Peter has said, "Special Olympics Australia is a great organisation that makes a difference to the lives of so many people. I'm always inspired by the achievements of the athletes, amazed at the skills of my fellow volunteers and proud of the great sponsors and donors who share their support. I'm pleased to have found a rewarding role at Special Olympics Australia."

Whether it's a team send off, like the one here in 2011, or a welcome home, Peter is there whenever he can find time.

In 2011, he sent Team Australia on their way to Athens for the Special Olympics World Summer Games at a media event at Sydney Airport (pictured).

Even before that, back in 2007, Peter welcomed home Team Australia from the Special Olympics World Games in Shanghai. Here he's seen congratulating Chris Bunton on the swag of medals he won in gymnastics. This was Chris' first World Games.

This year Chris was selected to compete in gymnastics at his third Special Olympics World Games in Berlin in 2023. Look who joined us to celebrate the achievements of Chris and all of Team Australia – our longest-serving and dedicated Ambassador, Peter Overton.

Thanks Peter.

20 YEARS OF TORCH RUN!



In 2022, Special Olympics Australia and the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) celebrated 20-years of partnership and we did it in style at the Opening Ceremony of the National Games in Launceston. At the Games, the Flame of Hope was relayed around the arena by an athlete and a law enforcement officer from each state and territory of Australia before the Cauldron was ignited by local athlete, Aydan Hogan and the Tasmanian Police Commissioner, Donna Adams.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run took shape in 2002 when members of the police services of NSW, Victoria and Tasmania carried the Flame of Hope from Hobart to Sydney for the National Games. The one-week journey through 17 towns and cities was hosted in conjunction with IGA supermarkets and culminated in the dramatic lighting of the Cauldron by Police Commissioner Ken Moroney to open the Games.

Since then, Law Enforcement officers around the country have provided funds and support for everything from local sports programs right up to international teams. LETR Victoria (pictured above) held a Torch Run through the streets of Melbourne for International Day of People with Disability 2022 and then presented Special Olympics with a cheque for \$230,000.



THEN – In 2002, police officer, Alan Keane led the first official Torch Run to the National Games in Sydney. Alan is flanked (L-R) by athletes Garth Perry and Scott Duncan who still participate in sport with Special Olympics Australia.



NOW – In 2022, Retired Detective Inspector Alan Keane was President of NSW LETR and while he's still a keen Torch Runner he also enjoys moments like this when he got to present Lisa McKerlie with her National Games uniform.

Alan will be one of seven Australian law enforcement officers to participate in the Final Leg Torch Run for the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin 2023.

INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Thanks to The DVT Group, the annual Inspirational Women's Breakfast was back again in 2022 with our Ambassador Peter Overton as MC.

The Inspirational Women's Breakfast celebrates female leaders and this year our supporters were inspired by the following women who took part in a panel discussion (listed as pictured L-R):

- Roz White, award-winning business leader, charity volunteer and leading advocate for various industry groups. Roz is the co-owner of White's IGA which employs 400 people in the Sunshine Coast community.
- Ellie Brush, Australian footballer (soccer) who plays for Sydney FC in the Australian Women's A-League competition. She has represented Australia in the Matildas team and played football internationally in Norway and the USA.
- Claire Pearson, Special Olympics Australia athlete since 2006 and accomplished Athlete Leader. Claire has won many medals in swimming at state and national level, and is now finding success in skiing.
- Carolyn Campbell, Chair of Sport NSW and Director of Volleyball Australia, Bankstown Sports Club, Hockey One and a member of Chief Executive Women.



SPLASH!

Our annual corporate swimming challenge returned to Sydney for the first time since 2019 following the easing of COVID restrictions. Twelve corporate teams took to the water at Andrew Boy Charlton Pool to take out the trophy. This year, they had a little help from Special Olympics Australia athletes who swam for a corporate team in the final – a first for the event. Special Olympics Australia athletes also took on Australian Olympians in the pool – and they won. McGrathNicol played a lead role in coordinating the event and the team from KPMG (pictured) took out the trophy as the winning team.



EVENTS

CHAMPIONS OF INCLUSION

To celebrate Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion, the Melbourne Cricket Ground was one of many iconic venues worldwide to be lit up red to raise awareness of inclusion and the importance of accessible sport for everyone. Red is the traditional colour associated with Special Olympics and a group of Special Olympics Victoria athletes (pictured) enjoyed the display.



SPORTS LUNCH

Thanks to the MCC Foundation our annual Sports Lunch returned to the MCG. This year this spectacular event was hosted by Australia actor and comedian Stephen Curry. Stephen has a close connection with Special Olympics Australia. His niece, Georgia is an athlete with Special Olympics Victoria.

Special Olympics Victoria athletes (L-R), Joanne, Harry and Chelsea shared their sports achievements with the crowd at the Special Olympics Australia's Sports Lunch held at the MCG.



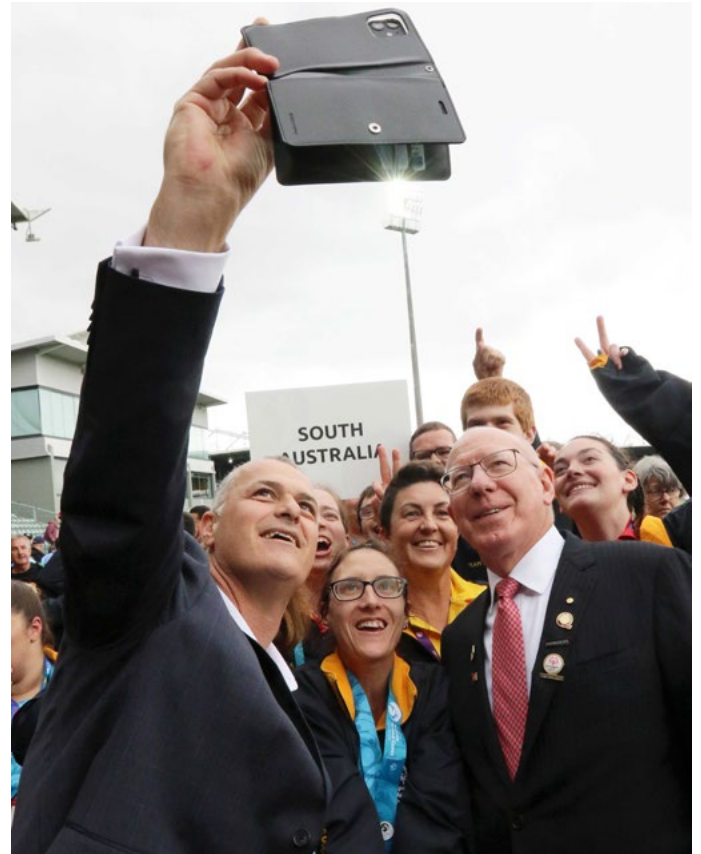
THANK YOU



Their Excellencies were happy to mingle with athletes at the Closing Ceremony of the National Games where they met veteran athlete Lyn Tanner (TAS) and had selfies taken with Team South Australia.

PATRONS

His Excellency, the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Mr David Hurley
Her Excellency, Mrs Linda Hurley



AMBASSADORS

Peter Overton
Australian journalist and Nine News Presenter
Daria Varlamova
2021 Miss Universe Australia



Daria Varlamova joined Special Olympics Australia as an Ambassador in 2022 and gave her debut speech for us at our Women's Inspirational Women's Breakfast.



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

NAB

Major Partners

Australian Sports Commission
IGA

National Games 2022 Partners

Presenting Partner: NAB

Major Partners: Tasmanian Government, City of Launceston, Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, IGA, Gallagher

Program Partners: Hireup, Linfox, Launceston Airport, Crown Currency Exchange, Kinetic, ALTRAD

Partners

Gallagher – Sport and Coaching Program
Grant Thornton
Hasbro – Unified Sports
Hireup
Kennards Storage
Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics
MCC Foundation

Grants, trusts and foundations

Australian Sports Commission
Department of Social Services
Grant Thornton
Hasbro Children's Fund
Morialta Trust (SA)
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing – Government of South Australia
Office of Sport – NSW Government
Queensland Government (Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport)
Service NSW
Sherry Hogan Foundation
Sport and Recreation Tasmania
Sport and Recreation Victoria
Variety SA
VicHealth
WDEA Works Foundation (SA)

National Sporting Organisations (NSO) Partners

AFL
Athletics Australia
Australian Powerlifting Union
DanceSport Australia
Golf Australia
Gymnastics Australia
NRL
Rugby Australia
Swimming Australia
Table Tennis Australia
Tennis Australia
Tenpin Bowling Australia



LEADERSHIP

Our national Board is made up of business leaders in a variety of sectors and Athlete Leaders in a variety of sectors. Each of our Board members generously volunteers their time to guide the strategic direction of Special Olympics Australia. They officially meet at least four times a year but can be often seen at a competition or fundraising event.



Cameron Brownjohn
Chair



Andrew Richardson
Vice Chair



Tanya Brown



Keiran Corry



Shaun Fraser



Michael Hogan



Anna-Louise
Kassulke



Megan Lavender



Ruby Lawler



Donald McGauchie
AO



Anna Mezger



Jehad Rasheed



Dr Jill Rathborne



Andrew Scipione AO
APM



Ross Smith

WAYS YOU CAN HELP



When you support Special Olympics Australia, you create opportunities for athletes like Louise (pictured) to experience sport, fun and friendship.

DONATE

If you can make a one-off contribution or become a regular giver you can help us bring sport, joy and friendship to more people with intellectual disability and autism. It'll feel good! [Donate here](#)

ATTEND

Join a fundraising event, meet our athletes, and learn more about what we do. [See events here](#)

PARTNER

If you want to show your commitment to diversity and inclusion, partner with us to support the largest disability population in Australia. If you're not sure what diversity and inclusion looks like, definitely partner with us. We have the resources and expertise to support your business.

[Learn more here](#)

SUPPORT TEAM AUSTRALIA

Make a donation to Team Australia and help make dreams come true for athletes with intellectual disability and autism selected to represent Australia. Support the team [here](#)

VOLUNTEER

If you want to make a difference and put a smile on your dial, volunteer with us. We have roles to suit everyone. [Register here](#)

SPREAD THE WORD

This is the easiest way to show your support. Follow us on social media, post your comments and share our inspirational stories. See our handles below.

FOLLOW US



CHOOSE TO INCLUDE

We help people with intellectual disability and autism develop the skills and confidence to explore what they can do, rather than accept what people think they can't. The joy this brings is demonstrated in our logo. Special Olympics athlete, Nate Gerharz explains what it represents to him.



"The figure with arms in the down position represents someone who is downtrodden. It reminds me of when people thought I couldn't make decisions or learn new things. That was my life before Special Olympics when I spent most of my time alone."



"The figure with straight arms means equal. When I joined Special Olympics, no one cared that I couldn't read or write. No one laughed that I was a lousy swimmer. For the first time in my life, I felt accepted for being me. I found a place to belong."



"The figure with arms raised represents the joy of reaching a goal and receiving applause from family and friends. I've reached my goal of learning to swim, but I have to continue to work on my reading and writing."



"The 'globe of figures' represents the global Special Olympics community. There are Special Olympic athletes in almost every country in the world. That means that almost everywhere there are people like me, and people who accept people like me."

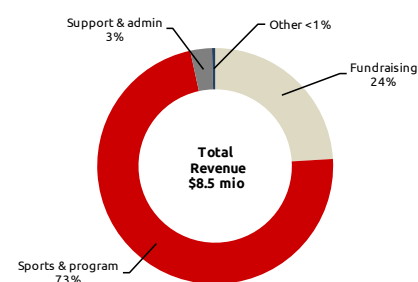


FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022

Consolidated Statement of comprehensive income For the year ended 31 December 2022

In AUD	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue		
Fundraising revenue	2,042,662	1,991,699
Sports and program income	6,162,935	2,185,545
Programs support and administration	252,988	180,084
Other	36,218	243,458
TOTAL	8,494,803	4,600,786
Expenses		
Fundraising expenses	(688,422)	(644,825)
Sports and program expenses	(6,381,992)	(2,386,965)
Programs support and administration	(1,264,141)	(1,319,813)
TOTAL	(8,334,555)	(4,351,603)
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax	160,248	249,183
Tax expenses	-	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	160,248	249,183
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	160,248	249,183

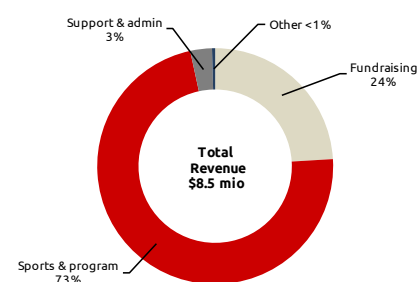
Revenue 2022



Consolidated Statement of financial position For the year ended 31 December 2022

In AUD	2022 \$	2021 \$
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalent	5,127,550	6,650,326
Receivables	99,131	50,971
Other assets	19,416	10,222
Prepayments	183,947	233,936
Total current assets	5,430,044	6,945,455
Property, plant and equipment	36,445	3,695
Total non-current assets	36,445	3,695
Total assets	5,466,489	6,949,150
Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	514,157	265,909
Unearned income	1,517,998	3,475,784
Employee benefits	206,150	131,593
Total current liabilities	2,238,305	3,873,286
Employee benefits	31,762	39,690
Total non-current liabilities	31,762	39,690
Total liabilities	2,270,067	3,912,976
Net assets	3,196,422	3,036,174
Member's Fund	3,196,422	3,036,174

Revenue 2022



OUR HEART AND SOUL





CHARITABLE STATUS

Special Olympics Australia is a national charity with tax-exempt and deductible gift-recipient status granted by the Australian Tax Office.

ABN: 28 050 738 728



**Special
Olympics**
Australia

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