

Annual Report 2018-19







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Image left: Ian Spence. **Cover images:** Ian Spence, RMIT, Lesley Bourne.

Our history

In 1962, the ParaVics Sports Club was formed to help a group of eight athletes with disability compete in national and international sporting competitions. We are proud to be the birthplace of the Victorian Paralympic movement, with our founders Kevin Coombs OAM and Bruno Moretti.

The organisation grew from the grassroots actions of a small group of athletes who were united by the ambition to compete in paraplegic sporting events at an international level. The group challenged preconceptions and dispelled societal prejudices toward disability in order to achieve this. The organisation demonstrated the potential for a united group of determined individuals to effect lasting social change.

The Club transitioned to Wheelchair Sports Victoria (WSV), where it became the leading provider of sport and recreation for people with physical disability. At this stage, the majority of WSV members were Victorians with spinal cord injury, lower limb amputees, spina bifida, cerebral palsy and other physical conditions affecting mobility.

WSV was the governing body for a range of disability sports including basketball, athletics, swimming, rugby, tennis, hand cycling, lawn bowls and shooting.

In 2010 we made a strategic decision to renew our focus and expand our support to include all types of disability, as well as include recreation to cover all types of physical activity. WSV was rebranded as Disability Sport & Recreation (DSR), as we are known today.

With this change in direction, we encouraged state sporting associations (SSA) to take ownership of inclusive sports and recreation activities in their community of interest.

This allowed us to take on a person-centred approach to programs and service delivery.

This included the introduction of a membership structure and services like one-on-one consultations, the adaptive equipment library and camps for children, while still being responsible for wheelchair rugby and supporting AFL Wheelchair.

We also developed many broader sector initiatives such as educational programs and our annual festival and awards.

In 2019, our Board and management group began reviewing our strategic plan and focus to make sure our work, now and into the future, reflects the needs of all Victorians with disability.

Our vision, mission and values

Our vision

A community where there is access and equity for all.

Our mission

To provide and promote positive health outcomes for people with disability, through taking part in sport and recreation.

Our values

Access, Equity, Respect



Ian Spence

Chairperson report



Over the past year, the Disability Sport & Recreation (DSR) Board and management team concentrated on looking at the future direction of our organisation.

Australia has the highest per capita of not-for-profits world-wide, so it is important that we are providing value to our members and the sector as well as maintaining relevance. By focussing on strengthening our strategic priorities, we will make sure DSR is sustainable and relevant as we move forward.

The vision outlined in our draft Strategic Plan is for a community where there is improved choice and access for people with disability who want to take part in sport and active recreation. We have begun public consultations on this draft Plan and have received fantastic feedback so far.

We are looking forward to working with the sector and our stakeholders to finalise our new strategy and prioritise the voice of people with disability in striving for better choice, access and participation for everyone.

Over recent years, we have undertaken considerable work to plan for a complete redevelopment of our home - Kevin Coombs House - at 341 George Street, Fitzroy. The monumental decision to proceed with the redevelopment was endorsed by the Board this year.

It will include an expanded office space for our operations and partners, as well as five levels of apartments that have the option of being designed with individual accessibility needs in mind.

I believe the redevelopment will be a strong platform for the future of DSR. Not only will it ensure ongoing sustainability for us, it is our commitment to the community that we have an ongoing investment in creating the change that will see more people with disability taking part in our communities.

I would like to thank the contribution of each of our Board members. We are so fortunate to have skilled and invested directors that truly believe in our movement. I particularly want to thank retiring Board directors Gabriella Cesile and Andrew Keen.

The last three years on the Board have been a wonderful journey - personally, I have been able to work with inspirational and evanescent people and professionally, I have been able to contribute on a governance level by opening up extra funding options for the organisation.

However, this will be my last report as Chair before I retire from the Board. I am so grateful to the Board, Richard and management team for their support and guidance throughout my time as Chair. We certainly have an exciting future to look forward to.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Alexandra Ash
Chair

CEO report



Over the past 12 months, DSR has experienced transformation that will drive our future. We remain committed to supporting people with disability to achieve positive health outcomes through participation in sport and active recreation.

I thank the Board, our staff, partners, donors, volunteers and members for their support as we strive to achieve change. With physical activity for people with disability remaining concerningly low, there is much work to do.

New projects from last year have continued to grow, including the second season of the Victorian Wheelchair Football League and our second National Disability Sports Conference.

We're thrilled to have entered into a partnership with YMCA Victoria, which will give us a greater presence in the leisure centre environment, while also joining forces with Gymnastics Victoria and Paralympics Australia.

Players in our highly respected wheelchair rugby program continued strong representation in the Australian team, with Shae Graham becoming the first-ever female player to represent Australia. Our state team won their first-ever National Championships and we hosted our first international wheelchair rugby event with Australia defeating New Zealand for the Ken Sowden Cup.

Our Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards again showcased the talent, tenacity and humanity that is abundant in our sector, supported by record nominations and attendance.

From a research perspective, we continued to work with La Trobe University and other partners investigating the 'FitSkills' model in

the leisure centre environment. The Melbourne Disability Institute has also provided funding for a Leisure Facility Disability Audit Program, to be developed in 2019-20.

A genuine partnership approach has been developed with the Victorian Government and we were invited to deliver 'Sportability', an employment program for women with disability in sport. We have also received more funding from VicHealth to develop the first disability sports hub in 2019-20.

We continue to advocate for greater resources and focus on supporting people with disability to be active. In the past year we made submissions to the 2019 Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and an Action Plan to the Victorian Government to guide future investment in disability sport as part of the Victorian election campaign.

Erich Hubel became our 38th life member, recognising his significant achievements and contribution. We also welcomed new staff members - Kaitlyn Frawley and Kris Paproth - while significant milestones in our fundraising team were celebrated, including 25 years for Trevor and 20 years for Laurette.

A heartfelt thanks goes to the thousands of people who have believed in what we do and provided us with the means to effect change. We invite everyone to join us as we continue to evolve and adapt to become a stronger voice for people with disability, supporting choice, access and participation in sport and active recreation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Amon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Amon
Chief Executive Officer

Getting active

Wheelchair rugby

We have worked hard over the past year to build on the successes of the previous 12 months.

In July 2018, we were honoured to have our partnership with Rugby Victoria, which sees our wheelchair rugby teams align with four local rugby union clubs, announced as a finalist for the 2018 Victorian Disability Awards in the category of Excellence in Promoting Health, Housing and Wellbeing.

Also in July, with assistance from our wheelchair rugby development sponsor ETU, we sent a team of players to represent Victoria at the annual south-east Asian wheelchair rugby competition – the Bali 4's.

In addition to the Victorian players attending, Naz Erdem was invited by the Bali Sports Foundation to do some coaching with up and coming nations taking up the sport of wheelchair rugby. Special bonds were formed and lifelong friendships made.

In August 2018 a number of our Victorian players were chosen to be part of the Australian Steelers team that competed in Sydney at the 2018 GIO World Championships.

Teams from Canada, Japan and New Zealand travelled to our shores to take on the team, who remained undefeated right through to the final match where they came up against Japan

for gold. Unfortunately, Japan proved to be too determined in a very competitive final, winning by just one try.

Season 2 of the 2018 Protect Victorian Wheelchair Rugby Cup wrapped up in November. Melbourne Unicorns eventually took the title with a 35-34 victory over Box Hill in a nail-bitingly close game with scores tied in the last minute. Tomas Klein was named Most Valuable Player and Rhys Morton was awarded Best New Talent.

Our development program at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre continues to give newcomers the chance to try wheelchair rugby for the first time.

In 2018 we introduced a new regional participation program in Echuca to enable people outside of Melbourne the opportunity to try the sport. In early 2019 the Murray River Razorbacks Wheelchair Rugby Club formed and have continued to deliver monthly training sessions open to all newcomers.

In March 2019 we started the season off with two huge events held over one weekend at the Caroline Springs Leisure Centre.

For the first time in history, Victoria hosted the Ken Sowden Cup where the Australian Steelers took on the New Zealand Wheel Blacks in a five-match series where they won all five games to take the Cup.





State based teams from around Australia also took part in our annual Melbourne Wheelchair Rugby Invitational. Athletes from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland took part in three days of heavy competition, with the Queensland Cyclones taking the title.

We also ran a women-only session for VicHealth's This Girl Can Week, led by one of our members, Shae Graham, who became the first woman to play for the Australian Steelers wheelchair rugby team. We've watched Shae's growth as an athlete through our Victorian Wheelchair Rugby program and she made her debut with the Australian Steelers team at the Four Nations tournament in the USA in May.

Also in March 2019, we trialled a new 'come and try' program in Casey. The monthly program has given people living in the South East of Melbourne the opportunity to try wheelchair rugby in a fun and safe environment for the first time. As a direct result we had two new participants transition into our Victorian Wheelchair Rugby Cup competition.

In June 2019 our Victorian wheelchair rugby team, Victoria Protect Thunder, took their first ever gold win at the nationals. The team travelled to Sydney to take part in the 2019 GIO Wheelchair Rugby National Championship,

which resulted in two periods of exciting overtime before Victoria narrowly beat Suncorp Queensland Tornadoes by one try.

In June we also revealed the new logo for Wheelchair Rugby Victoria. This new branding is aligned to our national body, Wheelchair Rugby Australia - a new division of Disability Sports Australia.

As part of our partnership with Paralympics Australia we took delivery of eight wheelchair rugby sports chairs, which are being used for 'come and try' sessions and community activations.

Thank you to all the players, officials, referees, score keepers, coaches, support crew, volunteers, family and friends for helping make our events not only successful, but a high-quality showcase of Victorian wheelchair rugby.

We are grateful to Protect, ETU, Paralympics Australia and the Victorian Government for continuing to support wheelchair rugby in Victoria. Thanks also to Quest Caroline Springs for supporting particular events.



48 players took part in our wheelchair rugby program

AFL Wheelchair

The sport of AFL Wheelchair has gone from strength-to-strength since the launch of the Robert Rose Foundation Victorian Wheelchair Football League (VWFL) in 2018.

The grand final on Sunday 2 September 2018 kicked off with an all-star game made up of players from Hawthorn, Essendon and St Kilda wheelchair teams, before the final clash between Collingwood and Richmond.

A sell-out crowd of 500 people watched on, including Collingwood President, Eddie McGuire, and CEO, Mark Anderson, as Collingwood won the first ever VWFL Premiership.

Our WheelTalk presenter, Orfeo Cecconato, was named Best on Court for his impressive performance with the Pies. Congratulations are in order for St Kilda's Patrick McKay, who won the VWFL Best and Fairest.

The first VWFL season was a tremendous success. We saw lives changed in the most incredible ways with many positive outcomes to flow on from participation in the League. The first year of the VWFL resulted in a 200%



78 players took part in our AFL Wheelchair program

participant increase in total numbers playing the sport, showing significant support for an inclusive, multi gender/multi ability sport.

Thank you in particular to our partners - AFL Victoria, the Robert Rose Foundation, Collingwood FC, Essendon FC, Hawthorn FC, Richmond FC, St Kilda FC, Boroondara Sports Complex, the Carbine Club and YMCA Victoria.

After such a successful season, we were very proud that, in partnership with AFL Victoria, the VWFL was chosen as a finalist in the 'Promoting Health Through Physical Activity and Sport' category for the 2018 VicHealth Awards.

The growing popularity of AFL Wheelchair saw 44 players take part in the 2019 VWFL draft combine at Boroondara Sports Complex, all aiming to score a spot on one of the five teams.



Nerissa Turner



- 50 players were drafted for the 2019 VWFL season
- eight female players were drafted
- 13 new people joined the competition
- 59% of returning players were drafted to the same team they played for in the 2018 season
- 86% of players identified as having a physical disability or impairment.

The 2019 VWFL season began on Sunday 12 May 2019.

In March 2019, one Victorian team entered the Wheelchair Aussie Rules National Championships in Adelaide. Managed by our partner, AFL Victoria, it was the first Victorian team to be made up entirely of people with disability. The team came away with the silver medal.

CyclePower

Our international CyclePower fundraising and awareness initiative took place across Thailand and Malaysia in August 2019.

Significant planning for the trip happened during 2018-19.

Four of our nine riders live with disability, including Penny - our first ever vision impaired participant - who completed the journey on a tandem bike with her riding partner Anna.

The ride once again showed that anything is possible for people with disability with the right support and community attitude.



Nerissa Turner

Adaptive equipment library

Our equipment library is one of the services we offer to members, to help reduce the financial barrier to participation. The library continues to play an important role in making sport more accessible for people with disability, particularly those who want to try a new activity without investing in equipment up front.

This year we enabled 50 people with disability to get active or try the sport of their choice through greatly subsidised equipment hire.

We love to hear good stories, so we were delighted to hear about a 'first' for one of our junior members, Jin. Jin's family came to us looking for a handcycle so he could take part in his first school cross country at Overnewton Anglican Community College. We were able to lend him a trike handbike from our equipment library and, for the first time, Jin finished the 2km course alongside his peers.



50 people hired equipment from our library

Winter camp

In July 2018 we put on our ski pants and headed to Howman's Gap at Falls Creek for our annual DSR Kids winter camp. We were lucky enough to be the first group to be accommodated in the new purpose-built facility for people with disability.

We had eight participants take to the slopes to learn snow sports under the guidance of instructors from Disabled Wintersport Australia and the help of nurses from Monash Children's Hospital and our amazing volunteers.

Plenty of personal achievements were reached and new friendships formed during this snow experience of a lifetime. One of our participants had previously gone on the camp as a sit-skier and this time learned how to snowboard.

We're always chuffed when it's not just the kids that get something out of the snow trip - this is what Elise's mum had to say on her return:

“ Thanks so much for all the hard work and enthusiasm given for the weekend camp. Elise had a wonderful time and is now keen to give the snow another go. It is really helpful for parents to see their kids bubbling with excitement when life is such as challenge. ”

Elise's parent



Autumn camp

This year we skipped our usual summer camp and instead ran our very first DSR Kids autumn camp.

In early May 2019, we spent the weekend at the YMCA's wonderfully inclusive Anglesea camp facility. The camp was attended by 15 children with physical and intellectual disabilities aged between 7-17 years, along with five support staff.

The weekend included activities such as the giant swing, archery, canoeing, beach games and the cycle smoothie healthy kitchens. These activities were complemented by other team building activities including trivia and movie nights.

“ This camp gave Jake the opportunity to put to the test the things we have been working on with him and he can now see for himself that he has grown, changed and can do so much more than he previously believed he was capable of. ”

Jake's parent

Our autumn camp helps develop leadership skills and provides camp-goers with an opportunity to improve their independence and social skills while building their confidence to try new activities.





23 kids went on our autumn and winter camps

We can offer our winter and summer camps at heavily subsidised costs thanks to the ongoing support of our generous donors and dedicated volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

Hospital program

We run our DSR Kids hospital program once a month at both Monash Children's Hospital and the Royal Children's Hospital. Each month we focus on a different sport or recreational activity and adapt it to suit each child's needs.

Each session was well attended, with a total of 110 children learning about the different types of accessible sport they can take part in when they leave hospital.

Thanks to Gymnastics Victoria, Netball Victoria, Bowls Victoria, Hockey Victoria, Football Victoria, Tennis Australia, Cricket Victoria, Wheelchair Rugby Victoria and Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance for their invaluable help running this program.



110 kids got active during our hospital program





Education

WheelTalk

Our WheelTalk inclusion awareness program encourages students to think about diversity, acceptance and disability – with a primary focus on inclusion.

Presented by Victorians with disability who are actively involved in sport and recreation, WheelTalk combines unique stories of lived disability with the opportunity to play wheelchair sport.

This year the program reached over 16,500 students via 631 sessions across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

We were also delighted to welcome back former Paralympian, Sam Bramham OAM, to the WheelTalk team.

In late 2018 we engaged an external consultant to review our WheelTalk program. We wanted to make sure the program is providing a high-quality incursion for schools, as well as DSR being an employer of choice for people with disability.

The responses we received from teachers who were asked to provide feedback as part of the review were overwhelming.

“ Thank you for this provision – students were really amazed by the inspiration in the face of adversity, resilience, bravery, persistence demonstrated by guest speaker. It put things into perspective for them – and made them think about how fortunate they are.

We have used the WheelTalk program for a number of years. The experience for our students is always valuable and relevant. Each speaker has a personal, unique story that needs to be heard and promotes excellent discussion and analysis.

We really appreciate the willingness of the presenters we’ve had to share their story and help the students understand the impact it has had on their lives, both in a negative and positive sense. ”



631 WheelTalk sessions were delivered to schools
16,688 students took part in WheelTalk inclusion awareness sessions

Earlier in 2019 we partnered with Premier's Active April - a month-long initiative to get more Victorians being physically active. Schools who registered to take part in Active April went into the running to win a WheelTalk session.

The first school to receive their prize was Buninyong Primary School, who had never experienced our program before.

“On behalf of Buninyong Primary School, I would like to say a HUGE thank you for the time and effort put in to have Sam visit us on Tuesday and let our Grade 6 students take part in such a wonderful session! It will be something that stays with them for a long time.

A big shout out to Sam for doing such a terrific job running the session. He had a lovely rapport with the students and he gave so many valuable lessons (outside the fun of wheelchair basketball). We would certainly love to have you back at the school to speak to even more students.”

Claire, Buninyong Primary School

National Disability Sports Conference

In July 2018, our vision to host the very first National Disability Sports Conference (NDSC) became a reality, thanks to the tireless work of the organising team that represented leading organisations in our sector including Vicsport, Special Olympics Australia, Gymnastics Victoria and Paralympics Australia.

Held as part of the National Sports Convention, the NDSC brought together key representatives to showcase ways to create more opportunities for people with disability to engage in sport and recreation. It also explored how the sports industry is preparing for the full rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

There were approximately 89 attendees, including speakers and volunteers, who came from as far as New Zealand, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland and South Australia. The attendees were from a range of backgrounds including State Sporting Associations, disability service providers, disability sport organisations, corporate organisations and local government.

It was fantastic to see so many people invested in creating inclusive opportunities for people with disability to engage in sport and recreation.



89 people came to our first National Disability Sports Conference

Working in the sector

NDIS Sports Guide

Since the introduction and rollout of the NDIS, it has become increasingly obvious that a major barrier for people with disability is how to incorporate sport into their NDIS plans. In response to this need, we released our much anticipated NDIS Sports Guide.

The guide was developed in partnership with Monash University and in consultation with multiple stakeholders including, most importantly, people with disability.

The guide outlines the logical steps that a person with disability should be thinking about when preparing for their planning or review meeting with NDIS planners and how to incorporate sport and recreation into their goals.

It also includes templates to help prepare for the meeting. The templates are available as accessible PDFs and word documents and the guide is available in Easy Read.

The Easy Read webpage presents the guide in a way that is easy to understand. It has lots of images to support the text and is great for people with intellectual disability, low literacy levels or who use English as an extra language.

The guide is free to access, use and promote and can be accessed on our website. Since its launch, the guide has been accessed over 3,000 times.



In July 2018 we announced an innovative new partnership with My Sport Live, that will provide greater exposure to disability sport.

As part of the partnership we host a disability sport TV channel on our website that covers a number of sports and events, providing huge exposure to the wider community around what's possible for people with disability.



Ian Spence



We hope the coverage will inspire a new generation of athletes with disability to emerge, at both the elite and grassroots levels, and discover the enormous power of sport to transform lives and provide powerful improvements in physical and mental health.

During the 2018-19 year we hosted broadcasts of AFL Wheelchair, hockey, table tennis and powerchair football, rugby league and hockey.

Sportability Employment Program for Women

We were honoured to receive funding from the Victorian Government to undertake a project that will help a group of women with disability find employment or a leadership role (for example a board position or advisory group/committee) in the sport and recreation sector.

The program engages suitable candidates who have completed some type of leadership, personal development or capacity building program and prepares them to work in our sector.

We hope that the success of the initiative will see inclusive employment practices embedded in sport and recreation workplaces and create more ongoing opportunities for people with disability - because diversity and inclusion at work benefits everyone.

In 2015, only 53% of people with disability were taking part in work, compared with 83% of people without disability¹. This has changed very little over the past 20 years.

Australians with disability are more likely to be unemployed (10% compared with 5% for those without disability)¹ and women with disability are less likely to be in the labour force compared to men (with and without disability) and women without disability².

This program is an opportunity for our sector to work together to change these outcomes and we look forward to reporting on the program in our next annual report.

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: First Results, 2015 (Cat. No. 4430.0.10.001).

2. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2012 (Cat. No. 4430.0)



YMCA Victoria

In 2019 we announced a new partnership with YMCA Victoria that commits to more opportunities for all Victorians to increase their physical activity and community engagement.

We're really looking forward to working with the YMCA on a number of projects, including a leisure facility disability audit tool and a disability sport hub, while working to enhance the voice of people with disability to deliver greater choice, access and participation in sport and recreation.



Gymnastics Victoria

In 2018 we were proud to announce a new partnership with Gymnastics Victoria, who are one of the leaders in providing inclusive sports for all Victorians.

The innovative new partnership will see our organisations collaborate to promote participation opportunities for people with disability in gymnastics and within the broader sporting community.

Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Organisation's Committee

In partnership with Sport and Recreation Victoria, we merged our Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Organisation Committee with the newly implemented sector wide Community of Practice series of workshops.

This new format has enabled the organisations, that were previously supported through the committee, to gain new perspectives and learn from other organisations.

Our role within this series of events has been to provide support, guidance and content when required.





Working in the community

Community engagement is an important way for our organisation to reach new audiences and increase awareness around disability and inclusion.

Over the past year we have taken part in different come and try events and demonstrations and taken our core programs into different spaces.

Our WheelTalk program, usually centred in the school environment, visited a number of corporate settings including Scope, Incitec Pivot, Hobsons Bay City Council, Glenelg Shire Council, Metro Trains, Disability Forensic Assessment and Treatment Services, WorkSafe Victoria, Strathbogie Shire Council and Boroondara City Council.

WheelTalk also appeared at a number of community events that we chose to support.

Throughout the year our community sports activations included demonstrations or come and try activities at:

- Arnold Sports Festival
- City of Dandenong, Wheelchair Sports Expo Day
- Southern Grampians Shire Council, Wheelchair Sports Day
- Darebin City Council, Wheelchair Sports Open Day
- City of Boroondara, Wheelchair Sports Open Day
- 2018 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Festival
- Lord Somers Boys Camp
- 2019 Grand Prix
- Robert Rose Cup at the 2019 Collingwood vs Western Bulldogs game
- Girls Sport Victoria
- 5th/6th Central Moorabbin Scout Group
- 1st Upwey Scout Group
- 1st City of Camberwell Scout Group
- Variety Children's Charity
- Youth Disability Advocacy Services
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- The Huddle, North Melbourne Football Club
- St Kilda Football Club
- Hawthorn Football Club induction day
- Richmond Football Club induction day.

2018 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards



The annual Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards (VDSR Awards) recognise the achievements of people with disability, those who support them and the inclusive sport and recreation sector in Victoria.

It's an opportunity to celebrate the athletes, volunteers, officials, coaches, clubs, communities, venues and programs that enable and empower people with disability to get active and achieve their goals.

The 2018 VDSR Awards were held at PwC, Southbank on Wednesday 1 August. Paralympian swimmer, Sam Bramham OAM, was his usual cheeky self as Master of Ceremonies. Keynote speaker, Peter Ogunyemi, shared his story of resilience on his journey from polio at the age of one to becoming the captain of the Hawthorn Football Club wheelchair football team.

Dual Paralympian and Olympian Melissa "Milly" Tapper, who won individual gold in table tennis at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast this year, won the DeakinTALENT Female Sportsperson of the Year award.

Making it a double for Australian table tennis, Nathan Pellissier, the Australian National Singles champion, took out the My Sport Live Male Sportsperson of the Year award.

Caytlyn Sharp, 16, from Terang, was awarded the Marg Angel Junior Sportsperson of the Year for her achievements in athletics, including a gold medal in T/F20 open women's high jump at the INAS Athletics Championships in Bangkok.

For the first time, the VDSR Awards were broadcast live on DSR TV via our website and through Facebook thanks to our partner My Sport Live. This meant family and friends of finalists who couldn't be there in person were able to watch the excitement live from home or replay it later from anywhere in the world.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following organisations: PwC, My Sport Live, the Carbine Club, Polytan, VicHealth, DeakinTALENT, Aligned Leisure, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Commercial Passenger Vehicles Victoria and Craig Wetjen Photography.

Our 2018 winners

DeakinTALENT Female Sportsperson of the Year

Melissa Tapper - table tennis

My Sport Live Male Sportsperson of the Year

Nathan Pellissier - table tennis

Marg Angel Junior Sportsperson of the Year

Caytlyn Sharp - athletics

Masters Sportsperson of the Year

Maria Strong - seated thrower: shot put, discus and javelin

Carbine Club Team of the Year

Casey Gymnastics Special O Athletes - gymnastics

Coach of the Year

Elizabeth Gosper - athletics

Official of the Year

Phillip Goodman - wheelchair tennis

Volunteer of the Year

Alana Baldi - Special Olympics, cricket and football

Lifetime Achievement Award

Greg Crump - Tennis Australia wheelchair tennis coach

VicHealth Initiative of the Year

All Abilities Cycling (Southern Masters Cycling Club)

Polytan Inclusive Sport, Recreation or Open Space Infrastructure Award

North Melbourne Recreation Reserve Multi-Use Sports Court (City of Melbourne)

A huge thank you to our panel for assessing the award nominations:

Colleen Furlanetto

Disability Commissioner -
Commercial Passenger Vehicles Victoria

Dave Crosbee

Performance Director -
Victorian Institute of Sport

Dean Barton-Smith AM

Chairperson -
National Disability Advisory Forum

Janelle Falkingham

Senior Leader State Recreation Product
Team - YMCA Victoria

Jerril Rechter (and the VicHealth team)

CEO - VicHealth

Lisa Hasker

CEO - Vicsport

Maurice Gleeson OAM

President - Blind Sports
and Recreation Victoria

Pam Kappelides

Lecturer - La Trobe University

Paul Kiteley

General Manager Performance -
Australian Paralympic Committee

Richard Simon

Executive Officer Vic/Tas Region -
Parks & Leisure Australia

Simon Rodder

Sport Development & Partnerships
Manager - Special Olympics Australia





2019 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards

In 2019 we made the decision to move our VDSR Awards to May, to better reflect the previous calendar year of achievements. This resulted in two events being held in the same financial year.

The 2019 VDSR Awards were held at PwC, Southbank on Wednesday 22 May and marked the tenth anniversary of the VDSR Awards.

The past ten years have shown us the phenomenal power of sport and recreation to change the lives of people with disability. Each year we see new athletes emerge, incredible new initiatives and more organisations changing or building sporting infrastructure that is accessible.

We are incredibly proud that our VDSR Awards have reached this milestone and we look forward to highlighting more achievements over the next ten years.



To celebrate our tenth VDSR Awards we had not one, but two Master of Ceremonies and keynote speakers.

Paralympians Madeleine Hogan and Sam Bramham OAM joined forces to co-host the night. Our first keynote speaker was Sarah Chaplin, a Special Olympics Australia athlete who has a passion for swimming. Our second keynote speaker was Elise Muller, an Autism advocate and successful Indigenous sportswoman on the Autism Spectrum.

These awards were our most successful yet, with a 24% increase in nominations and more partners signing on in support.

Our VDSR Awards were made possible by the generous support of PwC, My Sport Live, the Carbine Club, Polytan, VicHealth, WorkSafe Victoria, YMCA Victoria, WISE Employment, Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, Victorian State Government and Craig Wetjen Photography.



Our 2019 winners

Lifetime Achievement Award

Mel and Terry McMahon -
Special Olympics tenpin bowling
Tamika Simpson - gymnastics

Female Sportsperson of the Year

Hannah Macdougall - cycling

My Sport Live Male Sportsperson of the Year

Ben Roche - football (soccer)

Marg Angel Junior Sportsperson of the Year

Mitchell Bond - wheelchair basketball

WorkSafe Victoria Masters Sportsperson of the Year

Mick Fawkner - seated thrower

Coach of the Year

Vicky Lee - tennis

Carbine Club Team of the Year

Australian Half Marathon Team,
World INAS Games

Official of the Year

Jenny Forssman - gymnastics

PwC Volunteer of the Year

Melissa Hale - Deaf cricket

VicHealth Initiative of the Year

Access All Terrain Program
(YMCA Victoria, DHHS and Parks Victoria)

Polytan Inclusive Sport, Recreation or Open Space Infrastructure

Lilydale to Warburton rail trail chicanes
(Yarra Ranges Council)

*Images courtesy of Ian Spence
and Donna Killeen.*

We express our sincere gratitude to the following panel members for their contribution in selecting the recipients for these awards:

Anne Marie Harrison

CEO - Victorian Institute of Sport

Bridie O'Donnell MBBS

Head of the Office for Women
in Sport and Recreation -
Sport and Recreation Victoria

Colleen Furlanetto

Chairperson - Victorian
Disability Advisory Council

Dean Barton-Smith AM

Chairperson - National
Disability Advisory Forum

Lisa Hasker

CEO - Vicport

Maurice Gleeson OAM

President - Blind Sports
and Recreation Victoria

Pam Kappelides

Lecturer - La Trobe University

Richard Simon

Executive Officer Vic/Tas Region
- Parks & Leisure Australia

Simon Rodder

Sport Development &
Partnerships Manager -
Special Olympics Australia

Tim Matthews

Talent Specialist -
Paralympics Australia

Wade Mackrell

General Manager, Recreation -
YMCA Victoria

2018 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Festival



After cancelling our 2017 event due to extreme weather, we were relieved our 2018 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Festival (VDSR Festival) had more favourable conditions on Monday 3 December at Crown Riverwalk.

Our VDSR Festival offers Victorians with, and without, disability the opportunity to explore and experience accessible and inclusive sport and recreation through hands-on activities and information sharing.

A total of 40 organisations exhibited and/or provided hands-on activities, allowing attendees to try different inclusive sport and recreational activities, learn about programs they could get involved with in their community, meet Paralympians and, for the first time, interact with giant wheelchair puppets.

The Memetica Street Skeeter wheelchair puppets were one of the highlights of the VDSR Festival, successfully bridging the gap between art and sport. Memetica worked with one of our former

wheelchair rugby players, Matt Lewis, to create the first puppet prototype and make sure it was compatible with sports wheelchairs. Witnessing the interaction between the puppets and festival visitors who were wheelchair users was incredible.

Another highlight was the introduction of AFL Wheelchair to the Corporate Challenge. In previous years the challenge has focused on wheelchair basketball. This year, the Corporate Challenge moved to AFL Wheelchair in recognition of our partnerships with Collingwood, Hawthorn, Richmond, Essendon and St Kilda through the VWFL.

The My Sport Live team were the winners on the day, taking the 2018 trophy.



Another treat for attendees was the arrival of the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Approximately 150 police officers and Special Olympics Australia athletes ran from the Victoria Police Centre to the festival with the flame of hope.

The torch was presented to Deputy Commissioner Rick Nugent, who lit the cauldron and presented a cheque to Special Olympics Australia.

With support from City of Melbourne, four Auslan interpreters were engaged to provide services for attendees with a hearing impairment. This was a first for the VDSR Festival and a huge step towards the event becoming more accessible and inclusive. We look forward to building on this next year.

Special thanks to the volunteers that helped pull it all together with a smile - 25 volunteers dedicated hours and hours of their time to help us in the lead up to, and on the day of, the VDSR Festival.

The VDSR Festival was proudly supported by the Victorian Government, City of Melbourne, the Carbine Club, Commercial Passenger Vehicles Victoria, Crown Resorts, Hireup and Craig Wetjen Photography.

Images courtesy of Ian Spence and Larissa Eigenbrod.





Our members

In November 2018 we held an event for our life members, in honour of the dedicated service and contribution of our life member and former director and Chair, Jeremy Long.

As a member for over 20 years, a director for 19 and Chair for seven, Jeremy's involvement has been instrumental in the progress we have experienced over the past two decades.

The event not only celebrated Jeremy's contribution, but gave us the opportunity to launch a new life member section on our website. This new section recognises the incredible achievements and invaluable input provided by all of our life members.

In January 2019, we carried out our annual member survey to seek feedback from our members with disability.

An overwhelming 89% of members who responded said they'd been physically active in the last 12 months. Why? To socialise, stay fit and feel good, lose weight, compete and achieve a goal. We loved hearing all the positive experiences related to getting active.

We've also taken on board the reasons why some people didn't take part in physical activity or had bad experiences. This feedback will help guide the review of our Strategic Plan.

In February 2019 we held a celebration for our newest life member, Erich Hubel.

We offer life membership in recognition and acknowledgement of an individual's significant contribution to our organisation or the sector.

Erich was a member of the Paravics Sports Club from 1975 to 1989. He was a Director from 1987 to 1989, including being appointed as Chairman from 1988 to 1989.

During this period, he represented Victoria multiple times and represented Australia in the Paralympic Games in both basketball and track events.

“My involvement in Paravics Sports Club was the best thing that could have happened in my life at that time and now constitutes some of my fondest memories.

It provided me with the opportunity of playing competitive sport, make life-long friends, travel around Australia and the world and an exciting and meaningful job.

Since those times disabled sport has come a long way, becoming more specialised, more professional and has gained much more media attention.”



Our staff

Richard Amon

Chief Executive Officer

Anne King

General Manager
Corporate Services

Melanie Page

Manager Communications

Ayden Shaw

Manager Sport and Recreation

Sumaita Siddiky

Manager Telemarketing (part)

Kris Paproth

Manager Fundraising (part)

Lyn Connor

Administration and
Membership Officer

Michelle Ryan*

Australian Sports Accounting

Jason Lees

Wheelchair Rugby Coordinator

Kaitlyn Frawley

Wheelchair Rugby
Development Officer (part)

James Pantas

Wheelchair Rugby
Development Officer (part)



Our WheelTalk presenters

Gary Connor*

Brendan Stroud*

Orfeo Cecconato*

Peter Ogunyemi*

Judeland Antony*

Our telemarketing team

Tina Pangallo

Senior Supervisor
Laurette Corteling

Barbara Dixon

Lynne Ericson

Denise Gedye

Zeinab Mahmud (part)

Gweneth Nikolic (part)

Trevor Warne

Sandra Appleby (part)

Eddie Stobinski

Our Board

**We thank the DSR Board
of Directors for their
commitment and support.**

Alexandra Ash

Chairperson -
Appointed 2016

Andrew Keen

Deputy Chairperson (part) -
Appointed 2009

Gabriella Cesile

Treasurer (part) -
Appointed 2016

Sheri Johnston

Treasurer (part) -
Appointed 2018

Shaun Whittaker

Secretary -
Appointed 2017

Rob Anderson

Director - Appointed 2015

Stuart Ewin

Director - Appointed 2013

Gemma Hardie

Director - Appointed 2017

Madeleine Hogan

Director (part) -
Appointed 2018

Natasha Sekulic

Director (part) -
Appointed 2017

*Contractor



Our volunteers

Our volunteers are crucial to our ongoing operations, particularly our programs and events.

Since reviewing and updating our volunteer processes and policies last year, we have been able to better engage volunteers across our organisation.

In the past year we have had approximately 55 volunteers help make our events, including our festival, awards and conference, a success and help in program areas including camps, the equipment loan library and general administration.

Volunteer roles vary from event team leaders to nurses and carers to social media and photographers.

We particularly thank Karen James and Jason Reynolds, who volunteered countless hours in program administration over the past year.

In 2018 we partnered with Victoria University Polytechnic to recruit student volunteers who were completing the first year of a Certificate I in Work Education (Sport) – a course specifically for people with an intellectual disability who are interested in a career in the sport and recreation industry.

These students were trained specifically for volunteer roles at the 2018 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Festival. Each volunteer was assigned to help a school group that was taking part in the festival's Get Active Challenge. They were also able to provide first-hand insight into their experiences with inclusive sports and answer questions.

We have also worked with city-based photography school, the Photography Studies College, to give volunteer student photographers the opportunity to document the day's activities. It is a valuable learning experience for the students and exposes them to a broad cross-section of the community, as they overcome the challenges of taking photos in a public space at a vibrant event.



55 volunteers were engaged in roles across our organisation

Our supporters

For over 55 years, we've been able to help Victorians with disability get active thanks to the generous donations and support of the Victorian community.

Thank you to our partners, sponsors, individual and business donors for sharing our vision of a community where there is improved choice, access and participation for people with disability who want to take part in sport and recreation.

We especially thank our major donors:

All Tasks Computer Services	David Gill	Mooroolbark Technology
Allfreight Finance	Department of Health and Human Services	Mr David Taranto
Aquatap Plumbing Pty Ltd	Domo Collections Pty Ltd	Mustang Motor Sports
Austral-Asia Freight Pty Ltd	Dr Charles Meredith	N G K Spark Plug (Aust) Pty Ltd
Barry Plant - Werribee	Ensign Laboratories Pty Ltd	Naranda Meadows
Bertocchi Smallgoods Pty Ltd	Fitzgerald Constructions Australia P/L	New Age Caravans
Blue Star Print	Force IT	Noventus Pty Ltd
Brand Architects	Gerry & Wilma De Boer	Osborne Plant Service Pty Ltd
Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation	Hoolab Pty Ltd	Pierre Prentice
Burgess Rawson	iGo Direct Group	Provider Assist
CMV Staff Charitable Foundation Victoria	Jill Pickering	Ray Rosenberg
CARRA Builders Pty Ltd	Jo Metcalf	Renegade Pub Football League INC
Catherine Taylor	John Moran Motors	Rodine Australia Pty Ltd
Charlie Nguyen	Laurette Marasco	Ross Beddoe
Clayray X-Ray Services Australia	Laurie Renner (JNR)	Supercharge Batteries
Cola Engineering Victoria	Liberty Builders	Teds Camera Stores
Collingwood Rotary Club	Mainfreight Distribution	The Steel Club Of Victoria
Dandenong Cranbourne RSL Subbranch Inc	Margaret Young	United Equipment
Dash Trust	Mary Amato	Warranbrooke Pty Ltd
	Master Poultry Group Pty Ltd	XTM Australia
	McKinnons	Zenith International Freight

Fundraising



Throughout the year our regular donors contributed more than \$760,000 to our campaigns, meaning we were able to undertake many programs and services to support our vision, including:

- Sending kids with disability on our autumn and winter camps.
- Buying new sports chairs to support a range of programs and services.
- Running our hospital program each month at the Monash Children's Hospital and Royal Children's Hospital. A total of 110 kids with disability learned about the different activities they can take part in when they leave hospital.
- Showing thousands of Victorians with disability that getting physically active is for everyone, at our annual VDSR Festival - over 40 exhibitors showcasing accessible and inclusive sport and recreation.



\$760,000 contributed
by regular donors



We were also humbled to have a number of businesses take on their own fundraising activities to support us, including:

- The Collingwood Rotary Club, who made a \$10,000 donation towards our DSR Kids hospital program.
- Shield Sisters & Friends who chose us to be the recipient of their 25th annual fundraising show. As usual, ticket sales were hugely popular and, on the night, we were presented with a giant cheque for \$8,200.
- The CMV Group Staff Foundation, who donated \$4,000. CMV Group staff have the opportunity to donate part of their salary towards the Foundation and these contributions are matched dollar-for-dollar.
- The Altona division of Toyota, who held a fundraising breakfast where they auctioned off life sized cut outs of AFL players. They raised just over \$500 to go towards our programs and services for people with disability.

In the first half of 2019 we started to look at new ways of diversifying our fundraising income and partnered with Play for Purpose, the popular sports and charity raffle. Raffle tickets are \$10 and we receive \$5 from every ticket sold.



#ThisGirlCanVIC



1,989

Twitter
followers



1,527

Instagram
followers



4,985

Facebook
likes



1,294

LinkedIn
followers

5,692

people
subscribe
to our
e-newsletter
Vortex

Financial Position

as at June 2019

Assets

\$

Current assets	266,587
Property, plant and equipment	6,395,835
Total assets	6,662,422

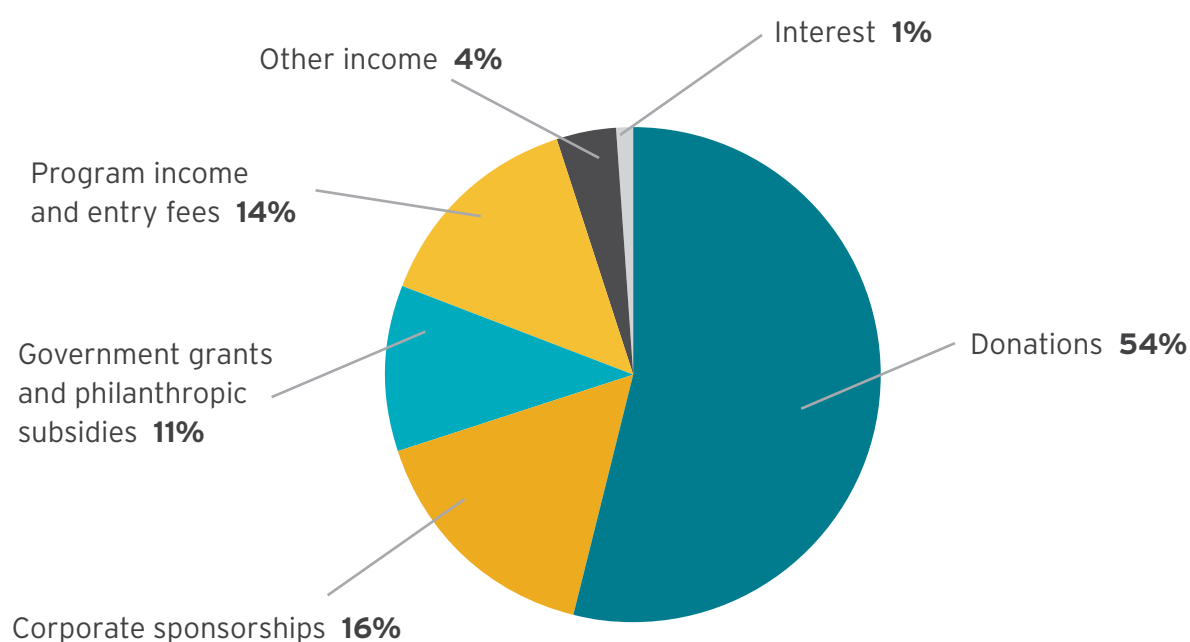
Liabilities

Payables	166,898
Provisions	75,289
Total liabilities	242,187

Net assets

6,413,274

Sources of income



Income

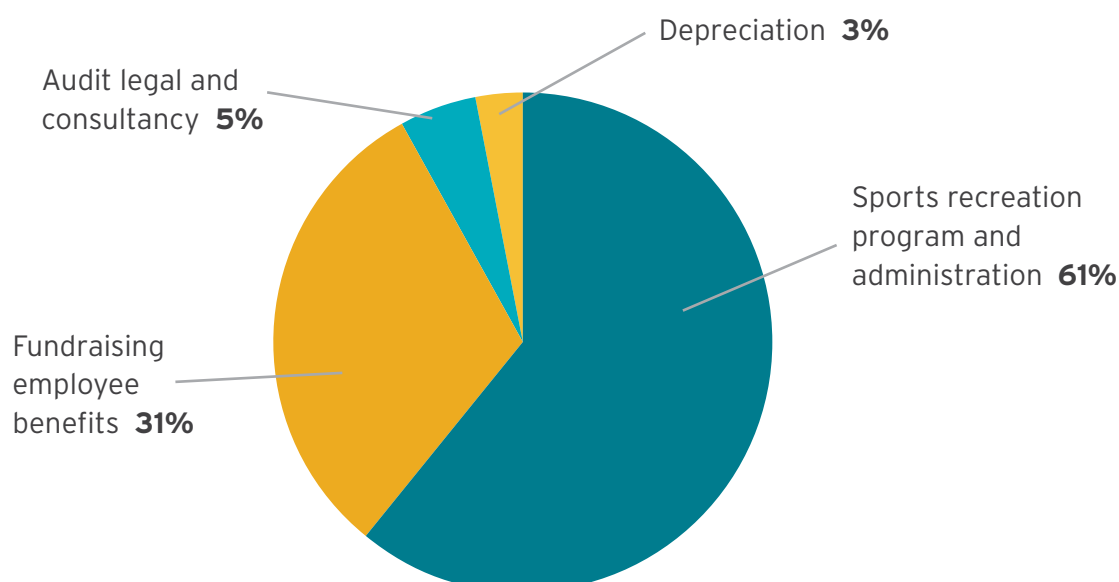
\$

Donations	778,298
Corporate sponsorships	235,409
Government grants and philanthropic subsidies	166,000
Program income and entry fees	209,991
Interest	1,225
Other income	55,854
Total income	1,446,777

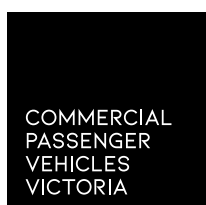
Expenditure

Audit legal and consultancy	65,349
Depreciation	39,531
Fundraising employee benefits	428,468
Sports recreation program and administration	857,179
Total expenditure	1,390,527
Net profit (excl building development expenses)	56,250
Building development project expenses	82,253
Net profit (incl building development expenses)	(26,003)

Expenditure 2018-19 (excl building development expenses)



Our key partners





DISABILITY SPORT
& RECREATION



Disability Sport & Recreation

341 George Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065

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E: info@dsr.org.au

W: www.dsr.org.au

ABN 90 355 468 664

Victoria Fundraising Permit 10566.15