

Disability Sport and Recreation's

# Annual Report

2022-23

DISABILITY SPORT  
& RECREATION



# Acknowledgment of Country

Disability Sport & Recreation (DSR) acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first peoples and Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waterways on which we meet, work, and play. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging, who collaborate with us and participate in our programs.

# Contents

Acknowledgment of Country	2
Our History	4
Our Vision, Mission & Values	6
CEO & Chair Report	8
Our Board	10
Our People	13
Education	14
DSR Kids Camps	16
Wheelchair Rugby	18
Sector Collaboration	22
2022 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Festival	24
2022 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards	26
Fundraising	28
Our Supporters	30
Our Reach	31
Financial Position	32

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be aware that this document may contain images or names of people who have passed away.



# Our History

## Victorian Paraplegic Sports Club (ParaVics)

In 1962, the ParaVics Sports Club was established with the noble purpose of assisting a small group of eight athletes with disabilities to participate in national and international sporting competitions. The organisation's inception can be traced back to the grassroots efforts of these athletes, who have driven this shared aspiration. This dedicated group of athletes boldly challenged prevailing misconceptions and dispelled societal prejudices toward individuals with disabilities in their pursuit. The organisation's remarkable journey showcased the potential of a united and resolute group and proved its ability to bring about enduring social change.

We take immense pride in being the birthplace of the Victorian Paralympic movement, thanks to our esteemed founders, Kevin Coombs OAM and Bruno Moretti.



## Wheelchair Sports Victoria (WSV)

The ParaVics Sports Club transformed and evolved into Wheelchair Sports Victoria (WSV), taking on the role of the primary provider of sport and recreation opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities. During this phase, a significant portion of WSV's membership comprised Victorians with spinal cord injuries, lower limb amputations, spina bifida, cerebral palsy and various other physical conditions that impacted their mobility. WSV served as the governing body for a diverse array of disability sports, including but not limited to basketball, athletics, swimming, rugby, tennis, hand cycling, lawn bowls and shooting.

## Disability Sport & Recreation (DSR)

In 2010, a strategic decision was made to refocus our mission and expand our support to encompass all types of disabilities. This expansion also included a broader scope of recreational activities. As part of this change, Wheelchair Sports Victoria (WSV) was renamed Disability Sport & Recreation (DSR), a name that remains with us today. We encouraged State Sporting Associations (SSA) to take a more active role in promoting inclusive sports and recreational activities in their respective communities.

This transition enabled us to adopt a comprehensive approach to program and service delivery, while continuing to govern wheelchair rugby in Victoria.





# Our Vision, Mission & Values



## Vision

A Victoria where all people with disability can choose and access any sport or recreation activity they want to engage with.



## Mission

To provide and promote positive health outcomes for people with disability, through meaningful engagement in sport and active recreation.



## Values

We are friendly, accountable, open, respectful, appreciative and progressive.





# CEO & Chair Report



It is with great pleasure that we present our annual report for the 2022 - 2023 year, a period filled with remarkable achievements, growth and exciting developments.

In 2022, Disability Sport and Recreation (DSR) celebrated a remarkable milestone - our 60th anniversary. As we reflect on the past, we acknowledge the significant growth, challenges and successes that have shaped DSR into what we know it to be today. During our annual awards ceremony, we had the privilege of celebrating this milestone with the DSR community, including many who have stood by our side throughout this incredible journey. We eagerly anticipate an exciting future and look forward to the next 60 years.

We also celebrated returning to our cherished home at 341 George St, Fitzroy, reopening our doors in November 2022 after completing the new building development, marking a momentous milestone. Our revitalised facility, named 'Kevin Coombs House' in honour of our esteemed founder, Australia's first Indigenous Paralympian, pays tribute to his legacy and continues to inspire our ongoing vision.

We welcomed four new Board Directors, Anthony Edgar, Ben Aldham, Jo Hansen and Kristin Rutherford, along with Callum Collet, who joined our Finance Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC). Their expertise will significantly contribute to the important work we do. We said goodbye to Sheri Johnston, extending our gratitude for her unwavering commitment to DSR during her tenure as Board Director, Treasurer and FRAC Committee Chair.

For 17 years, we have taken immense pride in our role as the governing body for wheelchair rugby in Victoria. This dynamic sport uniquely combines intensity and inclusivity, establishing itself as a standout in the world of adaptive sports. This year marked another pivotal chapter for wheelchair rugby, extending its influence not only within Victoria but also on a national and global scale. DSR remains committed to leading wheelchair rugby in Victoria and supporting our athletes as they prepare for the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France, and the 2032 Paralympics in Brisbane, Australia.

Our dedication to key programs, WheelTalk and DSR Kids Camps, has had an extraordinary impact reaching a record number of beneficiaries. Additionally, we have established a Junior Wheelchair Rugby Program and are exploring the world of Esports to meet the evolving needs of our community, resulting in promising outcomes for the future.

In addition to these core programs, our key events in 2022 were resounding successes. The 2022 Victorian DSR Awards received record nominations and welcomed over 130 attendees, enabling us to celebrate the community's achievements and recognise outstanding athletes in our sector. Similarly, the 2022 Victorian DSR Festival at Crown Riverwalk featured 35 organisations and attracted more than 5,000 attendees, with 80% of participants agreeing that the festival had a positive impact on their sport, recreation, or business objectives. Despite rising living costs, our donors have remained steadfast in their support. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the countless individuals and organisations who have generously donated, fundraised, or dedicated their time to champion the cause of disability sports and recreation. Our impact would be impossible without the steadfast support of these champions.

In remembrance, we sadly farewelled Dr. John Burke during the year. A life member and a pivotal figure in our DSR community, we thank John for his extraordinary contributions to our sector. He will be profoundly missed.

Looking ahead to the future, the upcoming year will mark the launch of a new strategic plan. This plan will define our future vision, establish our goals and objectives and enhance our representation of our members, partners, stakeholders and the wider community. We are committed to breaking away from the status quo and embracing bold aspirations, because we firmly believe in the extraordinary capacity of sports and recreation to connect and inspire individuals of all abilities.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to our members and supporters within our community, as well as our partners, sponsors and dedicated volunteers, staff and Board Directors. All of whom play a vital role in contributing to our success. Because of each of you, Victorians with disabilities have better choices and access to sport and active recreation.

**Liz Tesone**

Chief Executive Officer

**Sarah Anderson**

Chair



# Our Board



**Dr Sarah Anderson**  
Director

Appointed: November 2019  
Chair and Finance Risk and Audit Committee member.

Sarah has experience in both qualitative and quantitative research and is currently involved in research exploring participation and quality of life in people with disability. Sarah is currently the National Manager - Research Evaluation and Insights at AHPRA (Australia Health Practitioner Regulation Agency). She is a leader, experienced manager, researcher and educator with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry. Sarah is skilled in systems thinking, project management, ergonomics and human factors, public health, medical devices, lecturing, curriculum development, public speaking and health care.



**Sheri Johnston**  
Director

Appointed: October 2018  
Ceased: May 2023  
Treasurer; Chair, Finance Risk and Audit Committee (Outgoing)

Sheri is a Chartered Accountant with over 25 years of professional experience across the areas of governance, change management, leadership, financial management, accounting, risk management, process improvement, administration and compliance.

Sheri has worked in several sectors and organisation types including banking and professional services, as well as managing the audits of small business, manufacturing and top 200 ASX listed corporates.



**Shaun Whittaker**  
Director

Appointed: November 2017  
Company Secretary; Chair, Building Redevelopment Committee (concluded February 2023)

Shaun is a lawyer with extensive experience in financing, corporate and project delivery within the renewables, energy, resources, property and infrastructure sectors. He currently serves as a partner at Holding Redlich and has gained valuable expertise in general corporate advisory through two in-house roles at large multinational institutions.



**Stuart Ewin OAM**  
Director

Appointed: May 2013  
Building Redevelopment Committee member (concluded February 2023)

Stuart competed as a part of the Australian men's wheelchair basketball team at the 1988 Seoul, 1992 Barcelona and 1996 Atlanta Paralympics. Stuart won a gold medal at the Atlanta Paralympics for which he received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). Stuart is currently working as a solicitor at ANZ.



**Madeleine Hogan**  
Director

Appointed: November 2018  
Building Redevelopment Committee member (concluded February 2023)

Maddy is a three-time Paralympian, competed in the F42/F46 javelin throw events and won bronze at the 2008 Summer Paralympics and the 2012 Summer Paralympics. She also achieved gold at the World Championships in 2011. Currently, Maddy is the State Manager for Customer Service at Bluescope.



**Jo Hansen**  
Director

Appointed: May 2023

Jo has over 25 years of experience working in sports, recreation and leisure facilities. Currently, Jo is the Partnerships and Recreation Facilities Manager at the City of Melbourne, a position she has held for the past year. Jo is passionate about ensuring everyone in the community has access to sports, recreation and leisure facilities.

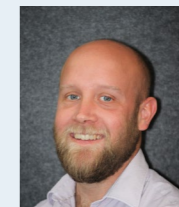


**Anthony Edgar**  
Director

Appointed: May 2023  
Treasurer; Chair, Finance Risk and Audit Committee (incoming)

Anthony has over 20 years of experience in the sports and recreation industry, holding senior leadership positions at some of Australia's most prominent and innovative providers.

Throughout his career, Anthony has focused on re-engineering operations and providing strategic, commercial and operational support to key stakeholders, including government and private entities. He is committed to driving success for all parties involved through strategic planning, effective communication and a customer-centric approach.



**Ben Aldham**  
Director

Appointed: May 2023

Ben brings extensive experience across multiple sectors, with a career spanning over 20 years in industry, research, education and government. Ben serves as the Executive Manager of Business Operations in CSIRO's Digital Business unit D61. Before this role, he held significant leadership positions, including Deputy Director of the CSIRO Services Business Unit and Executive Manager at CSIRO Global.





**Kristin Rutherford**  
Director

Appointed: May 2023

Kristin brings a wealth of experience to DSR as an advisor specialising in workforce capability and organisational effectiveness. With a career spanning nearly 20 years, she has worked across various sectors, including Not for Profit, FMCG, financial services and retail. As a proud mother of two boys, Kristin's youngest son suffered an injury that resulted in an acquired brain injury. This personal experience has fueled her passion for promoting participation and inclusivity.



**Suzanne Tripodi**  
Sub-committee member

Appointed: October 2020

Finance Risk and Audit Committee member

Suzanne is a highly experienced senior Finance Executive with expertise in Not-for-profit (NFP), Arts, Wholesale/Retail and IT/telecom sectors. She has strong commercial and technical acumen providing the ability to successfully manage business transformations, achieve business KPI's and integrate financial functions & systems from standalone into various entity structures. Suzanne is passionate about 'for purpose' organisations, she spent the last nine years at NFPs like The Y Victoria and CPA Australia. Suzanne also volunteered on the Board of Emerge Support Network for Women and Children, focusing on families affected by domestic violence for over eight years.



**Callum Collet**  
Sub-committee member

Appointed: May 2023

Finance Risk and Audit Committee member

Callum has made a significant impact on the finance industry since graduating in 2018 with a double degree in Business. His majors in Accounting, Banking and Finance and minors in Management and Taxation have equipped him with a strong foundation.

Currently, Callum leads the finance team at Law Squared. In this role, he has been responsible for key initiatives, such as developing the financial frameworks for the firm's expansion into the UK and leading the financial aspect of its digital transformation.

# Our People

## Our Staff



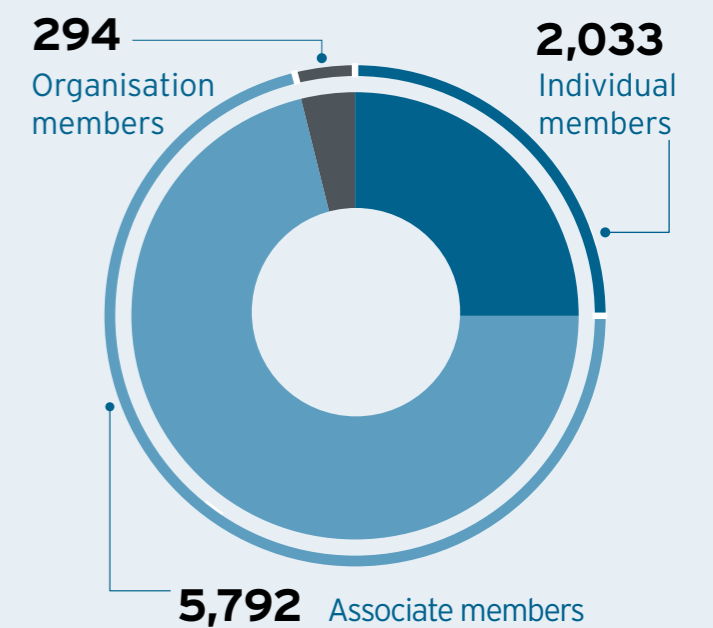
## Our Volunteers



## Our Members



Our dedicated team is at the heart of what we do, playing a pivotal role in making our vision and mission a reality. We would like to emphasise the invaluable contributions of the 15 volunteers who play a pivotal role in the success of our DSR Awards, Festival, and Kids Camps. Their commitment continues to have a positive impact on the achievement of our goals, and we sincerely value their ongoing commitment and support.





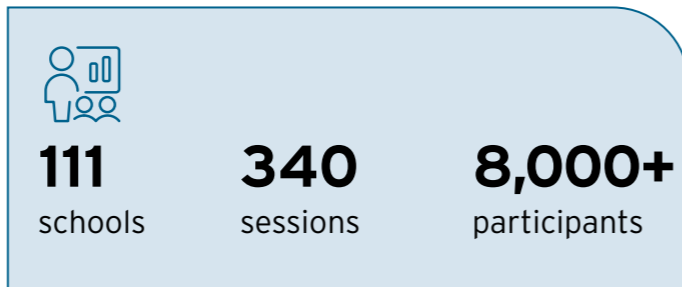
# Education

## WheelTalk

WheelTalk is our impactful inclusion education program, where active Victorians with disabilities share their inspiring personal stories, nurturing empathy and acceptance among students. Through interactive experiences, WheelTalk encourages embracing differences and celebrating unique abilities, empowering students to become inclusivity champions.

Over the past year, our efforts were dedicated to program re-establishment, to bring our programs back to full capacity. We successfully facilitated WheelTalk sessions to over 8,000+ participants across metropolitan Melbourne.

This achievement is attributed to the outstanding contributions of our presenter, Peter Ogunyemi, whose influence on the WheelTalk program has been widely acknowledged by all who participate in his WheelTalk sessions.



*“Our young people loved WheelTalk, wheelchair sports and Peter (the superstar!). Again, the sessions were so wonderfully engaging, heartfelt, challenging and educational”* - Youth Development Officer, Programs and Engagement, City of Yarra.

*“For some kids who think they are a forgotten part of the community, they are encouraged when they hear my story. I tell students that if I don’t make it in life, it’s not my disability, it’s what I do with my disability that matters”* - Peter Ogunyemi, WheelTalk Presenter.

*“Peter was amazing and I had some awesome feedback from both teachers and students, I really feel that all students took something away from the session, I know that I did!”* - Teacher, Cranbourne East Secondary College.

## Future

We aim to expand program capacity and reach by welcoming new presenters and diversifying our program offerings, including regional programming.

## Boroondara Disability Sport and Recreation Hub

Thanks to Access for All Abilities (AAA) funding through Sport and Recreation Victoria, Disability Sport and Recreation proudly partnered with The Y Victoria's Boroondara Disability Sport and Recreation Hub to offer our WheelTalk program to their local community.

This initiative benefited over 400 participants from diverse backgrounds, including schools, corporate associations and community groups.



## Esports

In May, we announced a new gaming and Esports pilot initiative, offering opportunities for anyone to participate, watch, or learn. This initiative is in partnership with the Australian-based Esports team Ground Zero Gaming (GZG) and focuses on a free-to-play online video game, Rocket League.

The initiative aligns with DSR's vision of providing people with disabilities the freedom to choose and access any sport or recreation activity they wish to engage in. The socialisation skills participants get from engaging in gaming and Esports help many overcome a key barrier to participation. This is achieved with a cost-neutral approach through event entries or sponsorship and involves over 100 players.

We have held watch parties, played custom matches, delivered skills workshops, played 1 v 1 tournaments with prizes, hosted an Online Safety Workshop and watched the community share their skills in content creation on the Discord Channel.

The community participating in this gaming & Esports pilot has grown beyond 100 participants and we aim to double this number before the end of 2023.





# DSR Kids Camps

DSR Kids Camps empower children with disabilities to take part in outdoor activities and sports, fostering physical activity and adventure. These camps offer a dynamic and exciting experience, encouraging kids to challenge themselves through a range of recreational activities. We aim to ensure that every child, irrespective of their ability, can enjoy an active and fulfilling camp experience.

## Winter Camp

The DSR Kids Winter Camp was held at Howman's Gap, Falls Creek, from July 1 to July 3, 2022. This exciting three-day event was developed in collaboration with Disabled Wintersport Australia (DWA). The camp's primary objective was to deliver an unforgettable alpine experience to children with disabilities aged 7 to 17. Thanks to the dedication of eight DSR Kids members, four committed support staff and two enthusiastic DSR team members, the camp achieved resounding success.

Our selection of Howman's Gap Alpine Lodge as the venue highlighted our unwavering commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. The lodge's exceptional accessibility standards ensured that the needs of every participant were met, resulting in a seamless and enjoyable experience for all.


The skiing program, expertly managed by DWA volunteers, received outstanding feedback from campers, underscoring its significant positive impact on participants' confidence and overall confidence and enjoyment.

## Summer Camp

The DSR Kids program returned to The Y Victoria's all-accessible Camp Manyung in Mount Eliza from February 17 to February 19, 2023. This year's Summer Camp saw ten participants aged 7 to 17 come along to experience the fun and inclusive activities on offer such as the tree ropes course, flying fox, archery, bike riding, pizza making, beach swimming, movie night and even an impromptu water fight in the 38-degree heat! The experienced The Y Victoria's instructors were on hand to support our campers and encourage them to step out of their comfort zone to try new activities. Camp Manyung offers amazing facilities, including a high ropes course with a flying fox and adaptive equipment to ensure the activities are inclusive for participants of all abilities.

We furthered our mission of empowering children with disabilities to embrace their potential and experience the joy of active living. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to our donors, our devoted staff and volunteers for making this camp a tremendous success.



 **18** participants went to our summer and winter camps.

*"The flying fox was the best thing since sliced bread"* - Alex, camp participant.

*"I'm a better person because of these camps."* - Tim, camp volunteer.

*"The big swing is really fun, I loved it."* - Zoe, camp participant.

**Future**  
We aim to improve the accessibility of the camps, activities, communication, venue and facilities, ensuring that it meets the specific needs of all participants.





# Wheelchair Rugby

This year marked another exciting year for wheelchair rugby. Under the wheelchair rugby umbrella, we focus on four key areas:

1. The Wheelchair Rugby National League features interstate competitions, including the Melbourne Invitational, Brisbane Bash and the Sydney Slam.
2. The Protect Victorian Wheelchair Rugby competition, our weekly local competition in Victoria.
3. The Wheelchair Rugby National Championships, which crown a single National team champion.
4. Our newly established Junior Wheelchair Rugby Program, offering a pathway for young Victorian athletes.

On a global scale, we witnessed Victorian athletes Shae Graham, James McQuillan and Ben Fawcett representing Australia as part of the Australian Steelers Wheelchair Rugby National team at the 2022 Wheelchair Rugby World Championship held in Denmark. In an exhilarating final match, the Australian Steelers secured the Gold Medal with a 58-55 victory over the USA.

***“Victoria is one of the leaders in wheelchair rugby within Australia and has one of the strongest wheelchair rugby programs nationally, with a long and successful history of developing players to compete at national and international levels”*** - General Manager Operations, Wheelchair Rugby Australia.

## Wheelchair Rugby National League - Melbourne Invitational

DSR hosted the opening round of the Wheelchair Rugby National League at Cobblebank Stadium from February 24 to 26. The three-day event saw over 60 players, including current and former Australian athletes in action. Our partners, My Sport Live facilitated live streaming of the games, expanding our reach and providing a larger platform to showcase the incredible sport of wheelchair rugby.

Melbourne Unicorns and Box Hill clubs were the proud representatives of Victoria, competing against four other interstate teams. Following their performance in the Melbourne Invitational, these Victorian teams continued their journey, participating in the Brisbane Bash and Sydney Slam, ultimately securing 3rd and 4th place at the end of the three rounds.

The Wheelchair Rugby National League provides a platform for senior players competing in the Victorian Protect Competition to test themselves against the best athletes in the country and progress through pathways to the elite level.

## 2022 Protect Victorian Wheelchair Rugby Competition

The 2022 Protect Victorian Wheelchair Rugby Competition Grand Final was hosted at Boroondara Sports Complex, where the Melbourne Unicorns emerged victorious against Box Hill with a final score of 41-23, securing the championship cup.

In recognition of their consistent and outstanding performances throughout the 2022 season, Shae Graham was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) and James McQuillan named Best New Talent for the 2022 Victorian Protect Wheelchair Rugby season.

On a local level, DSR organised nine ‘come and try’ events in both metropolitan and regional Victoria. These events aimed to introduce new players to the sport and raise awareness about participation opportunities within their respective communities. Across the nine events, a total of 922 participants took part and an additional 60 students attended the wheelchair rugby clinic at the Lord Somers Camp on the Mornington Peninsula.



Shae Graham named Most Valuable Player (MVP) and James McQuillan named Best New Talent for the 2022 Protect Victorian Wheelchair Rugby Season.





## Wheelchair Rugby National Championships

The Wheelchair Rugby National Championships is the most esteemed wheelchair rugby event in Australia. This year, the Victorian Protect Thunder team embarked on a journey to Queensland for the Santos Wheelchair Rugby National Championships, held at the Gold Coast Sports & Leisure Centre from June 2 to 4.

Wheelchair Rugby Australia once again partnered with Kayo and Foxtel to ensure all Division 1 games were broadcast live across Australia, including options for international viewership, which is a testament to the rising popularity of wheelchair rugby.

Our very own Victorian Protect Thunder displayed exceptional prowess by securing maximum points in their first three games, ultimately claiming the top spot in Division 1. The Semi-Final witnessed a thrilling face-off against the Queensland Cyclones, where the Thunder delivered a strong performance, clinching victory by a margin of nine points. This triumph propelled them to the Gold Medal Match against the formidable NSW Gladiators.

In an enthralling showcase of high-quality wheelchair rugby, the match culminated in a one point win for the NSW Gladiators in overtime. This was achieved after the Thunder's effort to equalise during regular play, marking a spectacular display of skill and determination throughout the event. Such outstanding performance led to the well-deserved recognition of three of our representatives being named in the Division 1 All-Stars Team.



- Jayden Warn named Division 1 MVP
- James McQuillan named Division 1 Best Low-Pointer
- Andrew Harrison named Division 1 All-Stars Coach



## Junior Wheelchair Rugby Program

In June 2023, we established Australia's first Junior Wheelchair Rugby Program, thanks to a generous donation from our sponsor, Protect. This allowed us to provide 10 junior wheelchair rugby chairs for participants to connect, train, and play.

The program is all about inclusivity, welcoming individuals from various backgrounds, with a focus on those with disabilities. It aims to strengthen the talent development pathway leading to the national wheelchair rugby team, addressing the gap in participation opportunities for those aged 6 to 14. This is crucial as we approach the 2032 Paralympics in Brisbane, Australia.

We are looking forward to hosting 'come and try' events and launching the program in the coming year.



Established Australia's first Junior Wheelchair Rugby Program

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to our dedicated partners and sponsors, including Protect, the Electrical Trades Union, Rugby Victoria, the Rugby Club of Victoria and the Victorian Government, for their generous support of wheelchair rugby in Victoria.

### Future

- We aim to continue to build capacity for the sport through recruiting and upskilling of referees, supporting the delivery of our Victorian Protect Wheelchair Rugby Competition and Melbourne Invitational Event.
- Implement and grow Australia's first Junior Wheelchair Rugby Program to ensure young players have a clear pathway for social and competitive participation.
- We aim to work closely with Paralympics Australia to ensure our Victorian athletes have the best preparation leading into national tournaments and supporting coaching development for high performance.





# Sector Collaboration

DSR partnered across six Access for All Abilities (AAA) projects, playing a pivotal role in improving outcomes for people with disabilities through the following initiatives:

## The Y Victoria

*Boroondara Disability Sport and Recreation Hub*

The hub is an established space for disability-specific sport and recreation, offering 15-20 hours of weekly activities at the Boroondara Sports Complex. This initiative aimed to foster regular participation in disability sports programs across the Victorian community, serving as a central hub in Boroondara and surrounding areas. DSR delivered our WheelTalk program as part of the hub, providing training and education sessions to over 400 participants from diverse backgrounds, including schools, corporate associations and community groups.

## Victoria University

*Building sustainable practices in state and community organisations that will improve access to sport and active recreation for people with disability.*

The project aimed to enhance the capabilities of women with disabilities, enabling them to educate and mentor staff members from community sport and active recreation organisations. Through fostering the integration of inclusive practices and programs, the initiative was designed to attract and retain individuals with disabilities in the field of sport and recreation.

## Gymnastics Victoria and University of Melbourne

*Gymstar for All Abilities*

Gymnastics Victoria, DSR and the University of Melbourne collaborated on the "Gymstar for All Abilities" project, which involved a comprehensive review of their recreational gymnastics program, Gymstar. The primary objective was to enhance inclusivity within the program and raise awareness through promotion of the all-abilities initiative



Boroondara Disability Sport and Recreation Hub - goalball activity.

## Down Syndrome Victoria and La Trobe University

*Down Syndrome Victoria (DSV) FitSkills - Translating research into action: A replicable service offering for the Disability Sector to increase sustainable participation and inclusion in sport and active recreation.*

The DSV FitSkills project was an evidence-based physical activity program for individuals with Down syndrome. Participants were matched with mentors for community gym workouts, guided by prescribed exercise routines from physiotherapists to improve physical fitness, overall wellbeing and psychological health.

## Banyule City Council

*Inclusion@Sport in Banyule*

The Inclusion@Sport project aimed to support local sporting clubs in capacity building and skill development to enhance sport and recreation opportunities for individuals with disabilities. DSR facilitated club workshops, conducted on site self-assessments and provided expertise in creating a toolkit to support the five clubs in developing a sustainable inclusion program.

## Special Olympics Australia

*Access to sport and physical activity programs and coaching opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities and/or autism.*

This project was designed to improve access to physical activity and coaching opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The program featured an athlete leadership initiative and a Victorian athlete leader advisory group, which contributed to online training, inclusive coaching resources, and toolkit development. With a focus on creating a pathway from awareness to coaching or officiating, the project aimed to enhance community participation and capacity.



Boroondara Disability Sport and Recreation Hub - WheelTalk activity.



# 2022 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Festival

The Victoria Disability Sport and Recreation Festival is a community event that promotes inclusion, raises awareness and inspires participation in sport and recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

This event, held in honour of the International Day of People with Disability, was a resounding success, attracting over 5,000 attendees, 59% of whom were first-time participants. The live broadcasting by Vision Australia, coupled with the presence of Auslan interpreters, ensured accessibility and inclusivity.

The festival featured three Activity Zones, spotlighting 18 inclusive sport and recreational activities and welcomed 34 exhibitors representing various stakeholders. These exhibitors included sports organisations, disability groups, equipment specialists and entertainment providers, collectively offering a diverse array of experiences for all attendees.

We were privileged to host high profile athletes and ambassadors, such as Lucas Protopapas, Will Pucovski, Meretiana Robinson, Allyssa Lolesio-Pua, Doug Sloan, Peter Ogunyemi, Duke Trench-Thiedeman and Mischa Ginns. Their participation not only elevated the event's prestige but also significantly promoted the numerous pathway opportunities available.

This year, the Wheelchair AFL Corporate Challenge featured teams from six organisations and Law Squared emerged as the victor. The participating organisations included:

- City of Melbourne
- Australian Sports Commission
- Sport and Recreation Victoria
- Law Squared
- Disability Sport and Recreation
- AFL Victoria



**62%** of attendees surveyed said they had an excellent festival experience, with

**87%** indicating they are likely to attend the festival again.

*"The health benefits of being physically active are widely known and the City of Melbourne is proud to support the inclusive activities organised by the Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Festival"* - Sally Capp, Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

*"It's just great to see so many people here involved in sport and recreation working ether in inclusivity and solidarity"* - Exhibitor, Special Olympics Australia.





# 2022 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards

The annual Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards recognise the achievements of individuals with disabilities, as well as the supporters and organisations in the inclusive sport and recreation sector across the state.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was renowned presenter Lachlan Wills. Elle Steele, a five-time Australian swimming representative, Paralympian, and gold medalist delivered the keynote address, sharing her journey and the transformative impact that sport and recreation has had on her life.

The event reached full capacity with over 130 attendees including nominees, finalists, industry partners and community members. Our partners, My Sport Live showcased the accomplishments of each finalist through live streaming on Facebook, garnering a significant viewership. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the high calibre judges from the sector and our dedicated volunteers for their invaluable contributions in making the night such a resounding success.



**130+** attended the awards.



## 2022 Award Winners

### Kevin Coombs Lifetime Achievement Award

Dylan Alcott AO

### My Sport Live Sportsperson of the Year - Elite

Heath Davidson, Wheelchair Tennis

### My Sport Live Sportsperson of the Year - Community

Robert Fletcher, Blind Tennis

### Carbine Club Marg Angel Junior Sportsperson of the Year

Liam Costello, Athletics

### Masters Sportsperson of the Year

Adam Fayad, Blind Tennis

### Administrator of the Year

Steve Odgers, AFL Victoria

### Coach/Fitness Leader of the Year

Alois Rosario, Para Table Tennis

### PwC Volunteer of the Year

Doug Sloan, Blind Golf Victoria/Blind Golf Australia/Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria

### VicHealth Initiative of the Year - Sport

Sport4All, Get Skilled Access

### VicHealth Initiative of the Year - Active Recreation and Leisure

Zooming in on a vision for health and well-being, Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria Inclusive aquatics and recreation: a guide to increasing participation by underrepresented communities, Belgravia Leisure, Belgravia Foundation and Aquatics & Recreation Victoria

### Polytan Inclusive Sport, Recreation or Open Space Infrastructure Award

Dementia Friendly Forest & Sensory Trail, Parks Victoria, Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance (Ballarat) and Dementia Australia

### Love the Game Team of the Year

Table Tennis Victoria - Team Vic Para Squad





# Fundraising

For 60 years, we have been able to assist individuals with disabilities in Victoria to lead active lives, all thanks to the generous donations and support from our Victorian community. Many of these devoted supporters have stood by our cause for over two decades, fostering a deep and enduring connection with our mission.

Through our dedicated fundraising efforts, we have made significant progress in furthering our mission to empower individuals with disabilities. These funds have enabled us to extend our reach and provide life-changing experiences, including DSR Kids Camps, WheelTalk and the Junior Wheelchair Rugby Program which open doors to those living with a disability to a world of possibilities.

We celebrated the extraordinary commitment and loyalty of our esteemed fundraising team members, Tina and Laurette, who have dedicated 25 remarkable years to our organisation. Both Tina and Laurette consistently exceed expectations, cultivating deep and meaningful relationships with our valued donors. The tangible impact of their efforts becomes evident when donors receive calls from Tina or Laurette, with the immediate response being a readiness to support our cause.



Orrong Park Golf Club third-party donation.

DSR extends its heartfelt appreciation to all our donors, who play a pivotal role in not only sustaining our ability to provide life-changing experiences for individuals living with disabilities but also in expanding our program offerings. We extend our deep gratitude for their invaluable contributions that have transformed our initiatives into a reality.

Here are a few of the many exceptional Victorians who made significant contributions to support our organisation during the 2022-23 financial year:

## Gift in Wills

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals who have chosen to leave a legacy of hope and support:

- Estate of Elizabeth Cook
- Estate of Kenneth Lay

## Major Donors

We would like to highlight and extend our gratitude to the below major donors for their significant contributions:

- Carbine Club
- The Steel Club of Victoria
- Mainfreight Distribution
- C. Nguyen
- M. Evans
- L. Wallace
- C M V Staff Charitable Foundation Victoria
- Austral-Asia Freight Pty Ltd
- McKinnons
- Quest Carpets
- iGo Direct Group
- Tyrecycle Pty Ltd
- Hydrosteer Pty Ltd
- Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation
- Ensign Laboratories Pty Ltd
- John Moran Motors
- Mooroolbark Technology

## Third-Party Fundraising

The charity golf day on May 10, 2023, organised by Orrong Park Golf Club raised \$10,000. This donation allowed us to acquire a junior sports wheelchair for the upcoming Junior Wheelchair Rugby Program.

## Direct Mail

Our annual direct mail December Christmas Appeal received an incredible response, with a 25% increase compared to the previous year. This year's campaign highlighted the inspiring journey of our WheelTalk presenter, Peter Ogunyemi, who moved from Nigeria to Australia and overcame the challenges of polio. Peter shared his poignant childhood memories, emphasising the difficulties faced by children with disabilities in Africa at that time. He passionately advocates for the role of sports in the lives of children with disabilities, citing how his introduction to weightlifting as a teenager changed his life, ultimately leading him to qualify for the Sydney 2000 Paralympics as a Powerlifter. Peter continues to engage in various sports, particularly wheelchair AFL, where he achieved premiership success with the Richmond Football Club in 2021. His story exemplifies how sport has opened new possibilities in his life.

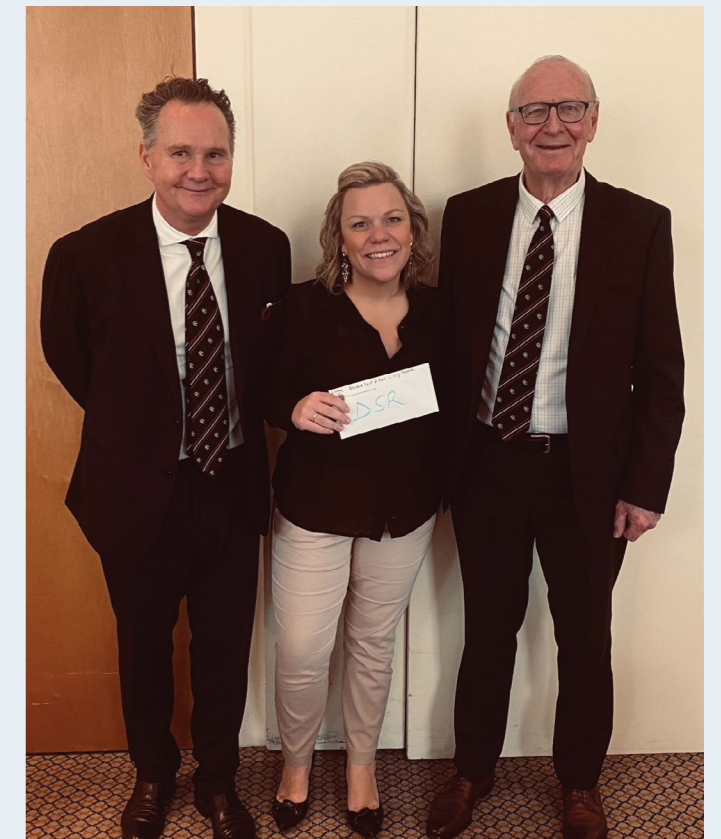
We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the generous donors who contributed to our Christmas Appeal, making it our most successful one to date.

## Regular Giving

Our Regular Giving program continues to underpin our fundraising portfolio with numerous donors opting to participate and provide ongoing support through regular contributions.

## Single Gift

Over the past 12 months, our single gift income has consistently formed a solid foundation for our fundraising efforts. Many donors directed their support toward our DSR Kids Camps and our new Junior Wheelchair Rugby Program. We are proud to report that our annual Tax Appeal achieved a 7% year-on-year increase, further demonstrating the growth and sustainability of our fundraising efforts.



Carbine Club annual major donation.



# Our Supporters



# Our Reach

**f** 7,124

Facebook followers

**in** 2,876

LinkedIn followers

**@** 3,145

Instagram followers

**🎮** 110

Discord channel subscribers

**X** 2,060

X (Twitter) followers

**DSR News** 11,000

e-newsletter subscribers





# Financial Position

as at June 30, 2023

## Assets

Current Assets	\$726,848
Property, Plant & Equipment*	\$6,759,450
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$7,486,298</b>

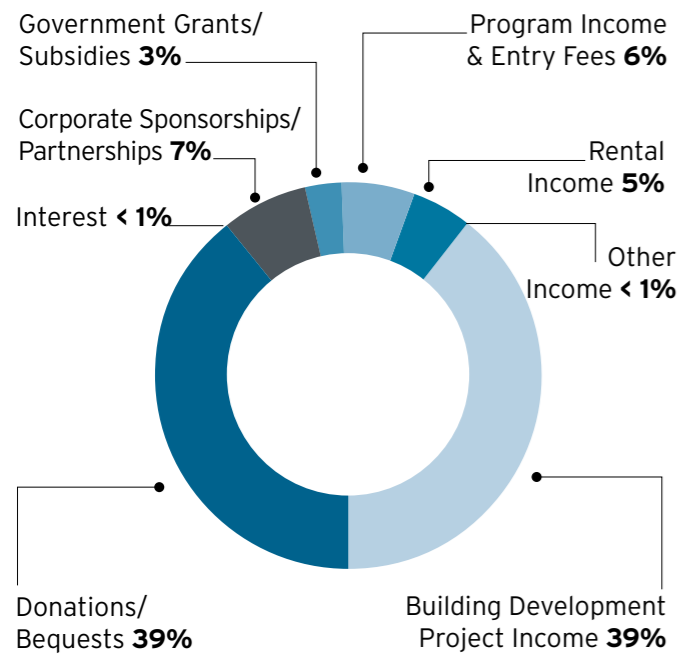
## Liabilities

Payables	\$176,889
Provisions	\$52,372
Non-current Liabilities	\$5,814
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$235,075</b>

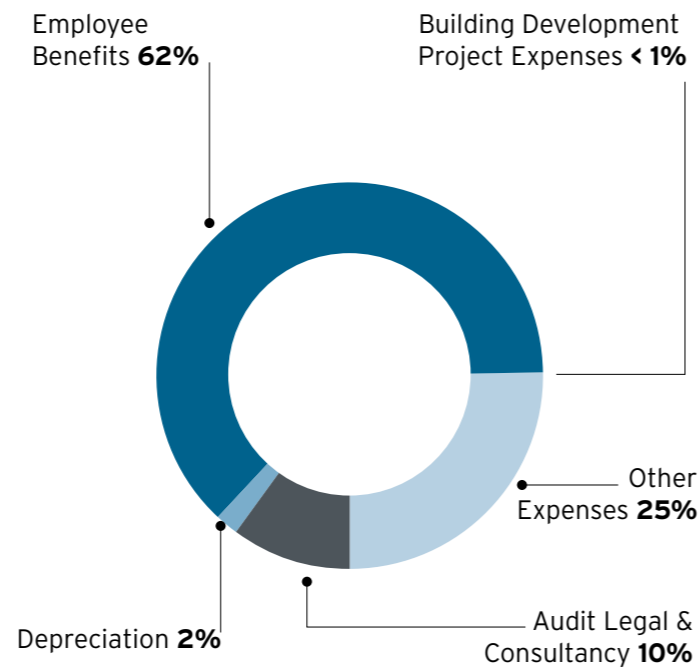
## Net Assets

**\$7,251,222**

### Sources of Income % 2022-23



### Expenditure % 2022-23



## Income

Donations/Bequests	\$981,099
Corporate Sponsorships/Partnerships	\$182,471
Government Grants/Subsidies	\$76,818
Program Income & Entry Fees	\$147,288
Interest	\$3,944
Other Income	\$1,672
Rental Income	\$120,175
Building Development Project Income	\$984,653
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,498,119</b>

## Expenditure

Audit legal & Consultancy	\$163,779
Depreciation	\$36,796
Employee Benefits	\$1,041,340
Other Expenses	\$414,534
Building Development Project Expenses	\$5,200
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,661,649</b>

## Net Profit

**\$836,470**







**Disability Sport & Recreation**

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Victorian Fundraising Permit 10566.15

