

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Supporting
people with MND to live as well as possible
for as long as possible

OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

OUR VISION

The best care until the world is free of MND.

OUR MISSION

To provide and promote the best possible care and support for people living with MND.

OUR VALUES



OUR OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE

1

Ensure the availability of a broad range of high quality services and supports for people living with MND.



OBJECTIVE

2

Advocate for the needs of people impacted by MND to be fully and equitably met.



OBJECTIVE

3

Promote, support and deliver research into care, treatment and cure for MND.



OBJECTIVE

4

Increase awareness and support for MND Victoria.



OUR FOUNDATION

OBJECTIVE

5

Underpin our strategy by remaining sustainable.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

MND Victoria acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work, and learn. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

FACTS 2022/23

MND Victoria's Support Services deliver services to people living with MND in Victoria, NSW (bordering with Victoria) and Tasmania. Services focus on supporting people to live better for longer, remain active in their community and safe in their environment, through the provision of four key program areas right. Review some of our facts for the 2022/23 year.

ADVISOR AND SUPPORT COORDINATION

Read more on page 11

PEOPLE SUPPORTED BY MND VIC:

783

2022: 772

REPORTED MND DEATHS:

246

2022: 237

HOURS DELIVERED TO CLIENTS BY MND ADVISORS:

19,956

2022: 16,849

NEW MEMBERS WITH MND:

262

2022: 249

PEOPLE WITH MND REGISTERED AT JUNE 30

525

2022: 524

EQUIPMENT (ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY) PROVISION

Read more on page 12

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED:

157

New clients receiving equipment

3,389

Equipment items provided

253

Clients with equipment at 30/06/2023

1,811

Requests from Allied Health Professionals to the Equipment Service (often for more than one piece of equipment)

EQUIPMENT RECOVERED:

2,746

Returned

EDUCATION AND CLIENT SUPPORT

Read more on page 14

TYPE OF RESOURCE SENT OUT:

390

Welcome Packs sent

218

GP Information kits

3,285

MND News
Hard copies (4 editions)

76,425

MND News
e-version (4 editions)

8,445

Health Professionals
e-news (4 editions)

MND VOLUNTEERS

Read more on page 17

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

3,483

Contributed

VOLUNTEERS ATTENDING TRAINING:

74

Volunteers

REGISTERED/ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS:

90

Includes 13 New volunteers

SUPPORTER DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Read more on page 20

SOCIAL MEDIA:

337,427

Instagram reach

5,582

Instagram followers

18,959

LinkedIn impressions

649

LinkedIn followers

1,535,489

Facebook reach

14,357

Facebook followers

DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

Read more on page 22

BEQUESTS AND TRUSTS:

\$456,868

DONATIONS:

\$949,744

INVESTMENTS:

\$551,769

MERCHANDISING:

\$37,458

SPECIAL EVENTS:

\$1,313,529



STATE COUNCIL AND CEO MESSAGE

The past Financial Year has been a little less challenging, with the world settling into living more normally with COVID. We have been able to return to face-to-face services and events but have also maintained some of the learnings from the COVID years in providing information sessions, group programs and webinars via video – which has improved accessibility to these opportunities immensely.

The year saw us receive a second tranche of Support for Carers and Carer respite funding, enabling us to continue to focus on ensuring that carers of people living with MND are well supported, able to have a break, can meet and socialise with other carers in similar roles, and are well informed.

The respite funding ceased on 30th of June and we await news as to whether this will be continued in the future. Our Support for Carers funding continues, and we will maintain our group and social programs for carers.

Our team has grown to 42 staff across Victoria and Tasmania, increasing our ability to provide the best possible care and support to people diagnosed with MND, their families, and the allied health professionals that support them.

We receive so much incredible support from our community. Sofia Levin, daughter of Greg who lives with MND, arranged and hosted a week-long exhibition of her father's amazing photography, along with multiple food events where guests were fed by some of Melbourne's top chefs. This campaign raised over \$105,000 and provided us with many opportunities to speak to a new audience about the work we do. We are grateful that Sofia will continue her support in the 23/24 Financial Year as Ambassador for our Shut Up! For MND campaign.

Our Great MND Relay was held in May with over 1,000 people attending and raising over \$350,000. The day was incredible – the community spirit, the support and the fun that people had were all amazing, and we look forward with anticipation to next year's event being even bigger and better.

Our Walks to D'Feet MND have recommenced with the Latrobe Valley Walk in October, and Melbourne and Bendigo Walks in November. It is so lovely to mingle with the MND Community and supporters in both metropolitan Melbourne and in regional Victoria.

The support continued with the donation of a wheelchair accessible vehicle, facilitated by Automobility. We are grateful to be able to offer this vehicle for loan to clients and families to assist them with holidays, appointments and so on. Whilst there were a few mechanical hiccups with the car in the early days, we hope it will be well utilised going forward.

Support for research has continued with the MND Superball and the Rock Off events across the year. These events each raised enough money to provide a one-year grant to an MND researcher and will be administered through MND Research Australia. Our Nina Buscombe Awards were also able to support 41 allied health professionals and researchers to attend a variety of MND related conferences occurring in the coming months.

In August 2022, our Larapinta challenge participants headed to the Northern Territory for 5 days to walk the Larapinta Trail, raising funds for MND Victoria and sharing their stories of the impact MND has had on their lives. Both of us (David and Kate) attended the challenge event – with David doing the full challenge, and Kate being there to thank and encourage the trekkers on their first day and sharing their story telling on the first night. We also had the opportunity to get some amazing footage of our trekkers and to interview both Sarah Solomon (Senior OT at Calvary Health Care Bethlehem and trekker) about her mother's journey with MND, and Ben from Fisher Lane Mobility about their sponsorship of Sarah's challenge and why they see the work we do as being so important.

Fisher Lane Mobility has continued their supportive partnership with MND Victoria across the year. After 12 years of support to our Take-A-Break program, Vitality Brands decided to refocus their social impact funding. We are very grateful for their long-term support. Fisher Lane have very generously agreed to sponsor the Take-A-Break program, allowing us to recommence this support to people living with MND in 23/24. We value their support and partnership.

Our CEO was privileged to attend the International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations meeting and Allied Health Professionals' Forum in San Diego in December. It is so incredible to hear about the dedicated work being performed across the globe to improve support to people living with MND and their families, and to identify causes, treatments and ultimately a cure for MND.

On a more local level, we have met with each of the Palliative Care consortia across Victoria to discuss the palliative care needs of people living with MND, and how best the Palliative Care Pathways funding, provided by the Victorian Government Department of Health, can support the provision of palliative care services to people living with MND.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the Barwon MND Support Group, who for 30 years have provided support both as peers and as fundraisers to people living with MND in the Barwon area. After 30 years, this group has decided to cease. We sincerely thank all those involved in this group, and in particular the Reverend Ian Parton for his 30 years of leadership for the group.



David Lamperd
President




Kate Johnson
CEO



STATE COUNCIL (AS AT 30TH JUNE 2023)

David Lamperd* - President
Katharine Barnett * - Vice President
Jeremy Urbach* - Treasurer
Wayne Pfeiffer*
Duncan Bayly*
Chris Beeny
Jodie-Ann Harrison Fitzgerald*
Angeline Kuek
Napier Thomson
Chloe Williams
Maryanne McPhee

*Has a personal association with MND

OUR ADVOCACY

We take every opportunity to advocate for the needs of people living with MND to be equitably and fully met.

This year we have been involved in advocacy at a number of levels.

We attended meetings with the Commonwealth Department of Health, along with MND Australia, to advocate for equity for those diagnosed with MND over the age of 65 who are ineligible to access the NDIS, and to provide consultation to the reform of Aged Care, in particular around access to assistive technology and equipment for people over 65 with MND.

MND Victoria was present at the inaugural gathering of the Parliamentary Friends of MND at Parliament House in Canberra in September. It was heartening to see a significant number of MPs and staffers interested in hearing from people living with MND, carers, and MND Australia and the State Associations about the unmet needs of our community.

We have participated in the trial of the NDIS's new participant management system – called PACE in Tasmania – providing feedback when necessary and advocating for ensuring that the new system does not make access and implementation of plans more difficult for NDIS participants, in particular those living with MND.

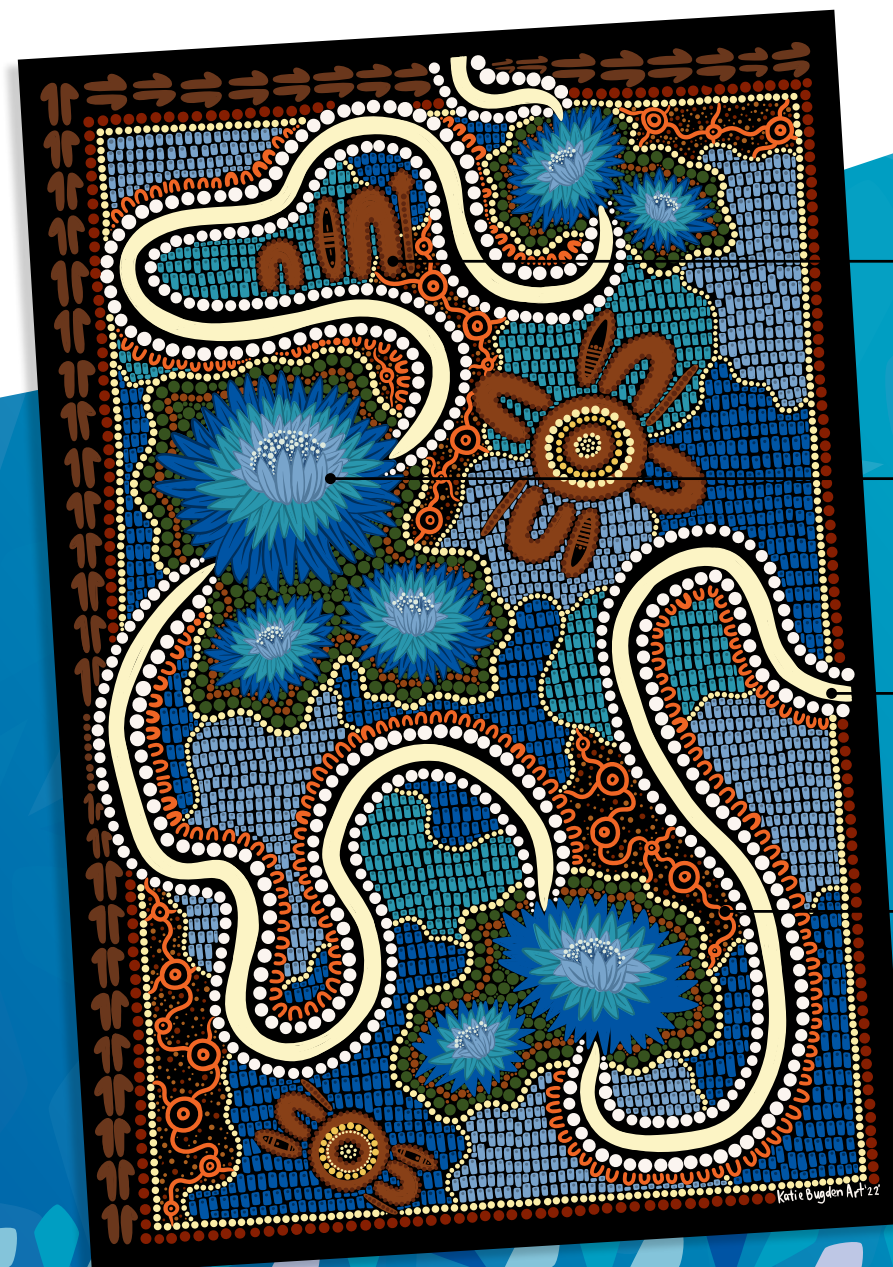


RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

This year saw MND Victoria launch our first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, endorsed by Reconciliation Australia.

MND Victoria's RAP Working Group operated throughout the 2022-2023 Financial Year. In the first half of 2023, the working group drafted content for addition to our website, written in easy-to-read English, and incorporating our RAP artwork. The latest website content has been developed with the First Nations and broader CALD community in mind, with the aim of ensuring that the information on our website is accessible to all Victorians living with MND.

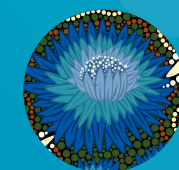
In recent months, the working group has rolled out a 'What is MND?' Resource, written in easy-to-read English. The resource also incorporates our RAP artwork and outlines information regarding the diagnosis of MND. Additional content within the resource includes a summary of supports available to people living with MND, both through the Association and in the broader community. We are distributing this resource to First Nations health organisations and community centres, as part of our commitment to ongoing engagement with external stakeholders providing services to the First Nations community.



OUR RAP ARTWORK EXPLAINED



A reappearing motif through the painting is the warrior with his spear and shield which represents strength and fight. The single 'people' represent the family and staff who support these fighters.



The cornflower (the symbol we use to represent MND) has been reimagined after the Australian strawflower that looks very delicate but has sturdy, colourful leaves that look like flower petals.



The three flowers/meeting places are joined by song lines, and little orange people figures line the path which represents the journey the Association is on towards reconciliation.



The orange connecting meeting places are dispersed through the MND blue background as a representation of the Indigenous perspective being interwoven into the values of the organisation.

RESEARCH

JENNY SIMKO MND RESEARCH GRANT

In 2023, this grant was awarded to Dr Duncan Cromie from the University of Melbourne for "Utilising stem cells derived from people with MND to create artificial 'mini-organs' in the search for MND therapeutics".

Research programs at the University of Melbourne have identified measurable defects in some MND-specific stem cell-derived lower motor neurones. However, while very useful for drug screening, the way these neurones are grown are not representative of how they work in the human body. Utilising novel 'neuromuscular organoid' models, which contain functional motor neurones, skeletal muscle and other non-neuronal support cells, Dr Cromie's research will identify measurable differences between 'sick' and healthy organoids. This will confirm his findings on lower motor neurones and provide for a more complex cellular model of MND which can be used to support research to identify new MND treatments.

We are grateful to Peter Simko, Russell Lowe, and all those who support the events that raise funds for the Jenny Simko MND Research Grant.

SUPERBALL XV MND RESEARCH GRANT

In 2023, this grant was awarded to Professor Aaron Russel from Deakin University for "Investigating the role of neurturin (a specific protein) as a therapeutic strategy to delay ALS disease progression."

This study will investigate whether increasing levels of a specific protein (called neurturin) in a mouse model of human ALS delays disease progression. It is expected that disease progression will be slowed down because changes to the skeletal muscle environment that will allow connections that transmit signals between the brain and the muscles are maintained for longer. This would allow the ALS mice to maintain better coordination and strength. If the research findings are translatable to people with ALS, then it would delay their disease progression, and extend their independent living and quality of life.

We are grateful to Russell Higgins, Stephen Giles, and the Superball team for their ongoing support of research.

MAVIS GALLIENNE AND GRAHAM LANG MND VICTORIA RESEARCH GRANT

In 2023, this grant was awarded to Dr Brooke-Mai Whelan from the University of Queensland for "Save Our Speech (SOS) Study". People with MND frequently ask speech pathologists: "How long will it be before I lose my speech?" and "Can you stop me from losing my speech?". The answers to these questions remain largely unknown. The ability to accurately predict the rate and pattern of speech loss in MND remains limited with currently available assessment tools. This research aims to better understand speech changes in MND using state of the art computerised analysis of speech over time. The findings will provide scientific markers of speech change in ALS related to declines in communication effectiveness. This information will allow Speech Pathologists to more accurately predict time to speech loss in MND, and provide a data framework from which patterns of treatment responsiveness may be determined.

We are grateful to those supporters who directed their donations to research, to assist us in providing funds for this grant.

SUPPORT TO RESEARCH AT CALVARY HEALTHCARE BETHLEHEM (CHCB)

In the 2022/23 Financial Year, MND Victoria provided funds to support three research programs being carried out at the CHCB MND Clinic.

Extension of Neck Weakness in MND Observational Study

This study will improve on the accuracy of the previously suggested prevalence of neck weakness (39%) in MND by following participants through to the end of their disease; and will explore the relationship between neck weakness onset and mortality in people with MND.

Exercise Interventions for People with MND: A systematic review

This study aims to systematically review the current literature to determine:

- the effects of exercise interventions on disease specific and functional outcome measures in people with MND
- the most effective types of exercise for people with MND
- how the stage of the disease impacts exercise efficacy
- the effect that MND phenotype has on response to exercise interventions

Implementation phase of a co-designed model for early uptake of voice banking in MND

This project will involve a pilot testing of a newly developed model at CHCB using the co-designed voice banking framework document, incorporating speech pathology and allied health assistance model of service.

We are grateful for the significant bequest from the Estate of Ella Whaley which has allowed us to fund these projects through the Ella Whaley MND Victoria Research Grants.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Bequests

The Estate of Kenneth Burns
The Estate of David Bird
The Estate of Albert Duncan
The Estate of Rae Blake
The Estate of Eva Bateson
The Estate of Heather Williams
The Estate of Caroline McLaren
The Estate of Valerie Meich
The Estate of Rodney Taylor
The Estate of Annemaree Foley
The Estate of Patricia Cook

Trusts and Foundations

The Cumming Bequest
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
Dimmick Charitable Trust
Mona Georgina Harris Perpetual Charitable Trust
Joe White Bequest

Organisations

FightMND
Vitality Brands Worldwide

Government Funders

Australian Government
Department of Health
Victorian Government
Department of Health
Victorian Government
Department of Families,
Fairness and Housing



SUPPORT SERVICES

MND Victoria's Support Services deliver services to people living with MND in Victoria, NSW (bordering with Victoria), and Tasmania. Services focus on supporting people to live better for longer, and remain active in their community and safe in their environment, through the provision of four key program areas:

- **Advisor and Support Coordination Service**
- **Equipment (Assistive Technology) Provision**
- **Education, Client and Carer Support**
- **Volunteer Engagement**



ADVISOR AND SUPPORT COORDINATION SERVICE

Our team of MND Advisors and Support Coordinators provide individualised support to people with MND, their carers and families. Advisors and Support Coordinators assist people to navigate the complexities of the NDIS, aged care, health and palliative care service systems, co-ordinate the multi-disciplinary support available, and advocate for the best possible care and support for every person with MND with whom we work.

Our Advisor team grew from 22 (18.3FTE) to 23 staff (19.1FTE) in 2023. The small increase in the staff team was to include a "relief" worker advisor. This staff member works with clients when their primary advisor is on leave for a week or more, to improve consistency and support to clients. It has been especially important during this year, when staff who have (through no fault of their own!) built up leave during the COVID period are now taking the opportunity to travel. This is a pilot role for 12 months and will be reviewed towards the end of 2023. Our Advisor team continues to operate in a hybrid model, doing a combination of face-to-face visits and continuing to use remote technology, as it can be a very efficient and effective way of maintaining regular contact and delivering support.

Our three MND Advisor and Support Coordinator Team Leaders all have a small caseload to ensure they remain across issues at the coal face, enabling them to provide great support and advice to their team members. The team leaders each have a portfolio area, namely NDIS, Aged Care, and Palliative Care. The purpose of having dedicated practice areas is to increase our efficiency and effectiveness in keeping abreast of best practice and our awareness of changes in the areas (which can be significant!).



I would like to say a huge thank you for all the support you offered my dad during his 6 year battle with MND. From the first time I contacted you upon dad's diagnosis, I have felt supported and informed about the path ahead, and I will always be so grateful. Dad's journey is now over, but your advice and equipment library will never be forgotten. Your commitment is admirable.

Daughter of person living with MND



The MND Victoria team are a most amazing group of people. (Advisor) provided support, comfort and represented MND as an Angel. It was an honour to have met him.

Person living with MND

The team maintains strong relationships with service providers and networks across Victoria, Tasmania, and nationally. We meet regularly with the three MND Clinics that support people with MND in Victoria. In Tasmania, our MND Advisor based in Launceston is an integral member of the MND Clinic at the Launceston General Hospital. Our Tasmanian Advisors have been involved in the pilot roll out of the NDIS's new system (called PACE) and we have provided feedback regarding the new system whenever possible and appropriate.

People who are diagnosed with MND over the age of 65 and receive supports via the Commonwealth Home Support Program and My Aged Care still remain disadvantaged in the type of supports and funding they can receive from the government. The team are keeping across the details available about the proposed new Support at Home Program. This was scheduled to commence in July 2024, but has been delayed by the Commonwealth Government until July 2025. MND Victoria continues to provide Advisor support to people over 65 with minimal government funding.

Our Keeping Connected program continues to provide excellent support to over 80 clients at any one time who are over 65, have slower-progressing disease, and have other established supports in place, such as residential aged care or home care services.

Jo Whitehouse

Manager Support Services

Eric Kelly, Elizabeth Crask, and Kim Hamilton

MND Advisor and Support Coordinator Team Leaders

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

To support people diagnosed with MND to maintain maximum independence, and ensure their safety, MND Victoria has an extensive library of high-end assistive technology which is managed by the Equipment Service Team.

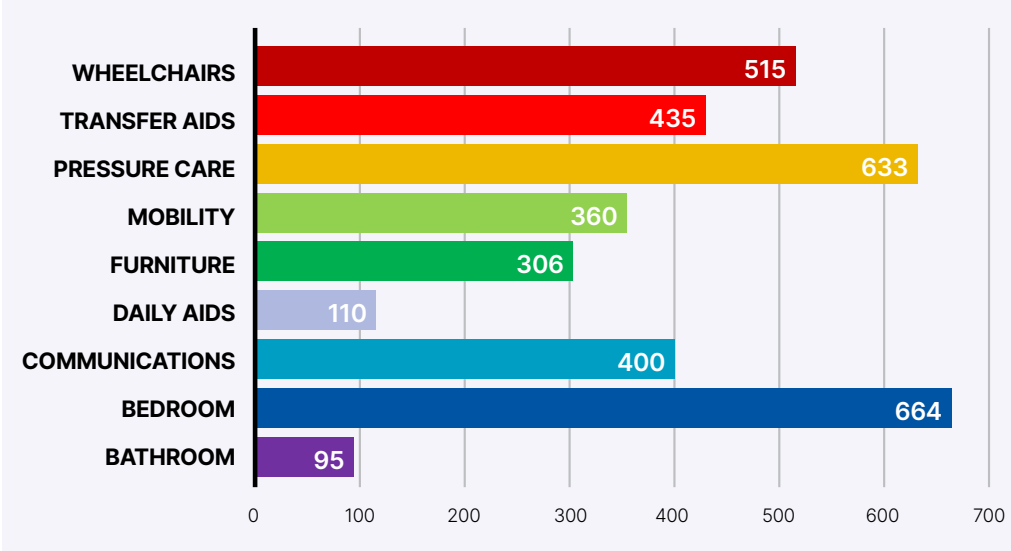
Equipment is loaned to people diagnosed with MND at no personal cost to them.

This year we have processed over 1,800 equipment requests from allied health professionals, providing 3,802 pieces of assistive technology from our loan library. This is an increase of 605 pieces from the previous year.

The Equipment Service is currently supporting 418 people living with MND.

310 NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) participants with MND have selected MND Victoria to provide their equipment, mostly through our equipment bundle offer. The bundle allows the changing equipment needs of clients to be met, in a timely manner, without needing to revise their NDIS plan.

The Equipment Service Team currently manages over 3,400 pieces of equipment; 2,176 of which are currently on loan to our clients:



- Wheelchairs:** Power wheelchairs, Transit and Self Propelling manual wheelchairs
- Transfer:** Hoists and slings, transfer belts, turning and seating disks
- Pressure Care:** Cushions and support aids
- Mobility:** Ramps and walking frames. We are also fortunate to have two Care Ports
- Furniture:** Recliners, kitchen trolleys, static chairs, around chair and overbed tables
- Daily Aids:** Nebulisers, cup holders and modhose mounts
- Communication:** A range of switches and remote call bells, and iPads
- Bedroom:** Beds, mattresses and overlays, pillow wedges, and bedside commodes
- Bathroom:** Toilet and showering commodes

“
Many thanks once again for the absolutely wonderful service you and your team provide. I hope you have some sense of just how marvellous it is for MND patients to have access to the various items that assist in making that horrible journey just that little (or big) bit more comfortable.
”
Person living with MND

“
Just a note to thank you very much for organizing to fix my door locks etc. All is going well and I can now come in both my front and back door. Your help is very much appreciated.
”
Person living with MND

Our most requested equipment from the loan library included:

- 115 power wheelchairs
- 113 hoists
- 105 remote call bells
- 101 roho cushions
- 98 nebulisers
- 89 recliners

We are also fortunate to be able to provide our clients with low cost (non-retrievable) equipment, including, but not limited to: shower chairs and stools, bed sticks, low tech communication equipment, and body wedges. During 2022/2023, we provided our clients with 557 low-cost items:

- 58 shower stools
- 55 over toilet frames
- 48 bed sticks
- 45 e-Writers
- 38 shower chairs
- 38 threshold ramps
- 35 handy bars for car transfers
- 240 other low cost (non-retrievable) items

Our Equipment Service continues to make ongoing changes and improvements in line with our mission of providing and promoting the best possible care and support for people living with MND. On recommendation from allied health professionals, we have recently introduced two new types of equipment to our loan library: the Kera sit2sit (a sit-to-sit transfer aid) and IV poles (free standing and clamped).

We meet with our Equipment Reference Group every three months to determine any gaps in our loan library, and seek feedback from the MND specialist allied health professionals who are engaged in this group.

We are fortunate to still have the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) Minor Home Modifications funding. This program commenced in November 2021 and has now been extended to June 2024. This allows us to continue fast-tracking funding to provide home modifications up to a maximum value of \$10,000 that increase or maintain levels of independence, safety, accessibility, and wellbeing for people diagnosed with MND.

In 2022/23 the CHSP Minor Home Modification grant has funded over \$258,502 of minor home modifications for 118 of our clients.

We continue to receive a number of grants, bequests, and donations to support the work of the Equipment Service, for which we are extremely grateful.

We stand by our vision of providing the best care until the world is free of MND.

Amy Schneider
Equipment Service Team Leader



EDUCATION, CLIENT AND CARER SUPPORT



INTAKE SERVICE

The Education and Client Support Team have continued to provide a responsive, empathic intake service in 2022/23. The majority of new registrations continue to be processed within 24-48 hours. We now record the traditional (Aboriginal) country at registration and include this when addressing correspondence to clients.

The team noted variation in the time between diagnosis and registration with MND Victoria. MND Victoria Volunteer Ruth O'Rourke worked with the team to review the data to help identify factors associated with delayed registration. People born in non-English speaking countries, those who speak a language other than English, and people from specific regions were more likely to access MND Victoria services later. There was no relationship between age at time of diagnosis, or sex and delayed diagnosis. This data will be used to drive targeted promotions to enable earlier referral. Special thanks to Ruth O'Rourke for her invaluable assistance with analysing this data.

In consultation with MND Clinics, an A5 flyer has been developed to promote MND Victoria services. The flyer provides a link to online registration or the option of calling the intake service and being assisted to register over the phone. A Tasmanian version of the flyer has also been developed. The flyers have been well received by MND Clinics, and intake staff are already noticing an increase in self-referral and referral immediately following diagnosis.



I would like to thank you for this respite funding (for gardening). It has taken off some stress and more free time to do other things. I wish the Association and their staff best wishes.

Carer of a person living with MND

The team has worked to increase efficiencies through revised CRM processes and the highly valued support of Maureen Fordyce (MND Victoria Volunteer). Maureen provides weekly support with administrative processes; thereby enabling the team to devote more time for client-facing work and education activities.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

New information resource for newly registered clients

MND Victoria staff partnered with clients Peter Chambers and Todd Johnson, and volunteer Geoff Goulet to comprehensively review the Everything Within information pack that is sent to people at registration. Including people living with MND in the review of the resource has assisted the Education and Client Support Team to better understand how to target information at this distressing time. The new MND Victoria Information and Service Guide will include quotes from people living with MND, a guide to building a support team, and emotional support information that is tailored for people at diagnosis. The new resource will be launched in late 2023.

Special thanks to Peter Chambers and Todd Johnson for generously sharing their knowledge, experiences and skills, and guiding design of the kit. Thanks to Geoff Goulet (MND Victoria Volunteer) who brought a wealth of experience in publishing to this project. Thanks also to Geoff for his bi-monthly support of compiling MND Victoria information kits.

State Trustees Social Inclusion Grant: Travelling with MND and Community Access films

The intake service receives regular requests for information from people who are newly diagnosed with MND who are planning to travel. A need was identified to develop an updated travel resource, and a resource to support people to feel more confident to access their local communities. Education and Client Support Coordinator staff Jade Spence and Joyce Poon consulted with people living with MND to better understand barriers and enablers for travelling and getting out and about in their local community. They then undertook a review of available accessible travel resources. Filming has been completed and work has commenced on factsheets. The new resources aim to support people who are in a position to travel to feel more confident to do so. The films and factsheets will be launched in late 2023.

This project was made possible by a \$20,000 State Trustees grant, and the generous support of Jeff Brown, Karin Josef, Marilyn Sabec, Paul Josef, Peter Chambers, and Peter Raisbeck.

INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE NEWLY DIAGNOSED, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

MND Victoria has continued to offer online information sessions, including five sessions outside business hours. The intake service now automatically shares the Zoom invitation for these sessions with people who register with our service. This has seen an increase in attendance at most sessions, with a trend towards more family and friends attending to support their loved one.

LIVING WITH MND GROUPS

Four programs of Living with MND groups were delivered in 2022/23. These small groups provide an opportunity to meet others affected by MND, share experiences, and learn from health professionals. Over the past year, the program has been redesigned to enable greater consistency of program aims and content.

This program could not run without the generous support from community members who share their experiences and tips at each group program - Emily Farrugia and Shanelle Bailey (Northern Health Dietitians), and Kate Barber (Counsellor and Nurse). The groups feature newly filmed content from health professional presenters and live Q&As attended by Kate, Emily, and Shanelle.

The program is primarily delivered online; however, one in-person program was held in Canterbury in 2023, and an in-person regional program is planned for late 2023.

A program of client and carer webinars was also delivered in 2022/23. Sessions were recorded and added to a library of webinar resources on the MND Victoria website.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

MND Victoria's health professional education offerings have grown in 2022/23.

MND Victoria worked to grow our health professional contacts in early 2023. We received an additional 200 subscriptions to our quarterly health professional newsletter between January and July.

In collaboration with MND NSW and MND SA, a program of five health professional webinars were planned. MND Victoria hosted four of the five webinars - two were delivered in the first half of the Financial Year. Interest in this program has grown, with 116 health professionals purchasing the webinar bundle in 2022/23 and others registering for individual sessions.

Special thanks to Dr Matthew Ligtermoet, Associate Professor Jaclyn Yoong, Anna Connolly, Marita Rees and Cat Mouy from the Northern Health Progressive Neurological Disease Clinic, and Dr Fiona Runacres from Calvary Health Care Bethlehem.

In addition, Amy Schneider, of the MND Victoria Equipment Service presented a webinar for Victorian allied health professionals.

Requests for bespoke education sessions for health professionals have grown again in 2022/23. Seven tailored information sessions were provided to health professional organisations.



These webinar series are always so informative, thank you to all involved in putting them together.

Allied Health Professional



Found these (health professionals' webinars) super helpful last year, and was provided with practical solutions that can be implemented to assist clients. It was well worth the time and money.

Occupational Therapist

EDUCATION, CLIENT AND CARER SUPPORT

VICTORIAN AND TASMANIAN INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR SUPPORT WORKERS AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Information session content has been updated with separate modules developed for support workers and health professionals. Four sessions have been delivered in 2022/23. Attendance at these sessions continues to grow.

RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITY EDUCATION

MND Advisors provide Education Sessions to Personal Care Attendants and other allied health professionals when a client moves into Residential Aged Care Facilities. Through consultations with the MND Advisor Team, we found that many Advisors were adapting the existing presentation and that it was quite outdated. Together with the Education and Client Support Team Leader and a few MND Advisors, we reviewed the existing education material and revised it to be more relevant with the target audience. In addition, we tailored the content to be more interactive and pertinent to the client's MND presentation.

CARER PROGRAM – CARER RESPITE AND CARER SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Our carer program was ably run by our Carer Support Coordinator, Andrea Salmon, and Carer Support Program Administrator Pia Gallaher during 2022/2023.

By way of background, in 2021, MND Victoria set up a Carer Support Project, responding to feedback that carers would appreciate more regular contact, individual support, and peer support. At this same time, we were lucky enough to be successful in receiving two buckets of short-term funding from the Victorian State Government, one specifically to support Carer Respite (ceased end June 2023) and the other to assist with setting up a Carer Support Program (ongoing until June 2026).

MND Victoria continues to comply with obligations in section 11 of the Carers Recognition Act 2012.

In the 2022/2023 Financial Year we have supported 228 carers with over 4,696 hours of support through our Carer Support Programs, including:

- funding 10 specialised allied health assessments
- supporting 103 families with cleaning, personal care, respite and gardening support, paying for personal care, or cleaning services while families waited for their NDIS or My Aged Care package of funding to kick in
- facilitating 13 families to take a short break
- funding 49 carers to take some time off to get a massage, and 8 carers to access counselling
- 10 carers attended educational webinars and many more viewed the recordings in their own time
- Supporting 37 carers to attend wellness retreats
- Facilitation of peer support 'Kitchen Table Conversations' in which over 100 carers engaged
- Organising carer lunches in various locations, some of which have resulted in carers organising their own catch ups when they had a connection with the other carers attending the lunch



We get amazingly positive feedback about our carer program and hope to secure ongoing funding to continue the work we have started in this space.

Paula Howell

Education and Client Support Team Leader



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

MND Victoria's volunteers underpin our organisation, and we acknowledge and thank them.

MND Victoria's volunteers contributed 3,483 hours to the work of the organisation in 2022-2023. This is up from 2,309 hours in the previous year, and equates to a monetary value of approximately \$162,377. We know our volunteers contribute so much more than can be measured in dollars. As a client who worked to complete his Life Stories with one of our volunteers noted: "this was the best medicine".

Our State Council are volunteers whose work throughout the year has again provided guidance and oversight to MND Victoria activities. Their willingness to engage in projects and campaigns, in addition to their regular monthly commitment, has been much appreciated in 2022-23.

This year our volunteers showed their willingness to support long-standing campaigns such as the Walk to D'Feet MND held in Melbourne in November, and to step up for new campaigns including The Great MND Relay held in May 2023. The Walk to D'Feet MND was successful because of the involvement of 34 volunteers contributing 156 hours. The Great MND Relay brought together 52 volunteers who contributed 212 hours across the event.

Volunteers have continued to connect with people living with MND in important roles including Hand and Foot Massage, Life Stories, Social Visiting, and iPad Buddies. Referrals for volunteer support have grown again in the past 12 months to 69, up from 64 in 2021-22 and 37 in 2020-21.

Ten volunteers continued to support clients from previous years, and we were able to match another 20 volunteers with clients in 2022-23. Unfortunately, we did not have capacity to fulfil all requests for volunteer support over the past twelve months. Where possible, we worked with other agencies to tap into their volunteer services to help ensure people living with MND were supported. However, due to geographic locations and volunteer availability, this was not always possible.

Our Bereavement Call Volunteers provide a caring ear and connection for family members, allowing them to reflect on their experiences and to know MND Victoria's care continues following the death of their family member. In 2022-23, Bereavement Call Volunteers completed 122 calls to family members.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023-2026

Development of the MND Victoria Volunteer Engagement Strategy 2023 to 2026 highlights MND Victoria's commitment to the ongoing development of volunteer programs, helping to ensure the best possible care and support for people living with MND.

MND Victoria has always valued our volunteers and the resources, roles, and benefits of volunteer involvement across the organisation. The Volunteer Engagement Strategy 2023 – 2026 recognises MND Victoria must continue to be responsive to changing community needs and expectations, and for our volunteer engagement to reflect the diversity of individuals and communities supported by MND Victoria.

To facilitate the growth of MND Victoria's volunteer engagement, State Council approved the creation of the new part-time position of Volunteer Engagement Coordinator to support the existing part-time position of the Volunteer Engagement Team Leader. We were pleased to welcome Jacinta Burge to the new role commencing July 2023.

We continue to thank our volunteers for the specific skills, expertise, and care they each bring to their specific volunteer roles within MND Victoria. Over the year we have increased social media posts acknowledging the work of our volunteers. We will continue to share stories about the work of our volunteers; and to celebrate their impact for people living with MND and the work of our organisation throughout the year.

This year during National Volunteer Week, we were able to catch up with our volunteers in the Geelong and Bellarine area at a morning tea; and with a tour and lunch for volunteers and staff at the Mission to Seafarers in Southbank – another organisation whose work is underpinned by volunteers. We also specifically recognised the contributions of volunteers who have provided 5, 10, 15 and 25 years of service to MND Victoria. Thank you to Margaret Peucker, Napier Thomson, Geraldine Hunt, Elaine Ryan, Kath Block, and Elizabeth Rasmussen (5 years volunteering); Katharine Barnett, Nick Bergin, Marilyn McKenzie Knap, and Heidi Lighten (10 years volunteering); Anne Simeone, Barbara Spittle, and Helen Demitris (15 years volunteering); and Irene Port (25 years volunteering with MND Victoria).

To every one of our volunteers – thank you for what you have contributed to MND Victoria and for people living with MND. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Deb Olive
Volunteer Engagement Team
Leader



SUPPORTER DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Supporter Development and Communications Team are not only passionate about doing their jobs well but also about working together as a team to ensure we can achieve great outcomes for people who are impacted by MND.

It's been a year of consistency and building on a lot of the work we started during the strange COVID-19 times. I'm fortunate to have an amazing team who want to make a difference every single day. So much of what we do is about the future and establishing growth opportunities to drive increased revenue that will ultimately enable improved and increased services in the years to come. Given the very tough economic climate which has certainly been a factor throughout the year, I'm thrilled with the overall result in the last 12 months.

I say it every year, but the MND Community is genuinely amazing. We are all aware we are going through a cost-of-living crisis that has impacted the whole charity-giving sector. The budget our team works towards is indicative of the funds we need to raise to ensure the Association can deliver all its vital services at the highest possible level. The budget is set not based on any issues around the economy, but rather on the needs of people living with MND. To achieve a result like we have this year is a credit to the generosity of so many people within the MND Community. So many people go above and beyond with their desire to contribute to MND Victoria and in their fundraising activities so no person living with MND in Victoria is left behind.

There have been many highlights across the year, but The Great MND Relay was something else. The event, which is only in its second year, brought 1,000 people together at Lakeside Stadium in Albert Park for a day like no other. There was a 42km challenge, a huge amount of love and pride, and endless amounts of goodwill and great vibes. It was a day I know I will remember forever. Our small team did a mighty job ensuring this was the greatest event MND Victoria has ever hosted. Year one was fantastic, but the improvements this year were exceptional. A special thanks goes to all our participants who not only made the day what it was but also took on their own fundraising campaigns and helped raise a total of \$360,000. I can't wait to see our new flagship event become even bigger and better next year!

Community Fundraising is a major source of income and has been the avenue most impacted by the pandemic since 2020. This year marked the return to pre-pandemic levels, and I can't thank our dedicated fundraisers enough for their passion, creativity, and generosity in putting on events in their communities to raise funds to help support people living with MND. It's always an honour to attend events all over Victoria and experience the passion and emotion behind every fundraiser. If I were to write about all the different ways people have raised funds, I would need many more pages!

One event (or series of events) that needs a special mention is the incredible Grounded for MND event in February. Sofia Levin is a well-renowned Food & Travel Journalist. She is also the daughter of Greg, who is currently living with MND. Sofia did the most remarkable job putting together a series of culinary events at No Vacancy Gallery in QV whilst showcasing and selling her father's amazing photography work from over the years. This was one of the most impactful and largest fundraising events I have seen in my time at MND Victoria. Over \$105,000 was raised, with many people committing to continue to support the care of people living with MND into the future. Sofia has also continued to be a wonderful active advocate of MND Victoria.

This year also saw the return of our Melbourne and Bendigo Walk to D'Feet MND, the inaugural Latrobe Valley Walk, and the fourth South East Melbourne Walk. These events are all about people who have been impacted by MND in one way or another coming together to walk as families and friends for their loved ones. It's also an opportunity for everyone to walk as one strong MND community to show solidarity. These Walk events are a highlight for so many people around the state, and I know they will continue to be an outlet for so many to remember or honour their loved ones who are currently living with or who have passed away from MND.

I want to express my gratitude to Amy Lynch and her family for allowing us into their life after Amy's diagnosis with MND last year. Amy, who is a young mum, was the face and voice of our Appeal campaign across June. Storytelling is a vital part of how we raise awareness of MND and the work we do at MND Victoria. It's also essential in helping us raise funds to help support the 750+ people living with MND across the year. Amy and her husband, Simon, told their very emotional story for the purpose of raising funds and awareness. Amy's story certainly resonated with many, and I don't think it's a coincidence that June was a record-breaking month for donations. I couldn't be prouder to have the opportunity to work with so many people like Amy, knowing that MND Victoria is providing incredible care and support to all Victorians living with MND with the funds raised through all our income streams.

I also want to give a special mention to the brilliant team at Fisher Lane Mobility. MND Victoria has been purchasing various assistive equipment items from Fisher Lane for over two decades; but in recent times, the two organisations have become very close. We have very similar motivations and love for what our teams do. We simply want to provide the best possible care, support, and vital assistive equipment for those we support. The team at Fisher Lane has become heavily involved in many of our fundraising campaigns and events. Some highlights include: the phenomenal support

of Occupational Therapist, Sarah Solomon on our Larapinta adventure in August, the participation of their loudest team member, Shane, in our Shut Up! For MND Challenge, and a huge presence at The Great MND Relay. If all those efforts weren't enough, we were delighted to bring Fisher Lane Mobility on as a major partner of our Take-A-Break Program. The funds provided throughout the year will ensure many people with MND can access something that will give them a sense of enjoyment and as the name suggests, a break from MND.

Corporate partnerships are an area of opportunity and growth for MND Victoria. We understand the importance of collaborating with businesses that share our vision and are passionate about making a difference in the lives of the 750+ people living with MND every year. We wholeheartedly welcome any opportunity to discuss the benefits of supporting MND Victoria.

As we always say, until the day we are no longer needed because treatments and a cure has been found, the team and I are committed to raising as much money as possible to ensure every person living with MND receives the best possible care and support. Thank you again to everyone who has helped us achieve what we needed to throughout 2022-2023.

Daniel Woodrow
Manager – Supporter Development and Communications

“(Relay participant who ran 42 kms) called this morning to pass on how wonderful the Relay was and how well organised it was. He loved being part of the day and doing his bit.”



FINANCES 2022/23



The 2022/23 Financial Year saw the Reserve Bank embark on the sharpest interest rate cycle since the 1990's in an effort to curb rampant inflation. This had a devastating impact on many Australian charities that struggled with the combination of ever-increasing costs and a reduction in donation revenue as supporters prioritised their own rising living costs.

Although MND Victoria was certainly not immune to these macro-economic headwinds, I'm pleased to report that we have weathered the conditions well. Importantly, the strong financial position that we have worked hard to build over the last decade gave State Council the confidence to trade through this difficult period ensuring we could continue our mission to provide and promote the very best possible care and support to those living with MND.

A summary of our FY23 financial performance can be found below.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

The Association finished the year with an operating loss of \$382k which, after adjusting for one off items (including a historical adjustment of \$7.9m and an extraordinary bequest of \$2.2m) was \$910k lower than FY22.

Total revenue was \$6.6m in FY23 compared to \$9m in FY22. Fundraising and donation revenue was down 65% or \$1.9m; however, as noted above, this was mainly due to the recognition of an extraordinary \$2.2m bequest in FY22 that wasn't repeated in FY23. Operating grant revenue was 18% lower due largely to the withdrawal of federal COVID assistance, and client equipment revenue was 32% down on last year; however, this was due only to a change of accounting policy with equipment bundle revenue now recognised as earned throughout the period of the loan agreement rather than upfront. Client coordination of support income meanwhile was 14% higher than the prior year, which was a solid result given that the hourly billable rate for our work under the NDIS has remained stagnant for a number of years, placing significant pressure on our operations given the high inflation environment in which we find ourselves.

Our total expenses increased by 12% in FY23 to \$7.5m.

The costs of serving our clients increased 21% to \$4.2m due mostly to an increase in our staffing levels together with the cost of carer respite programs.

Assistive technology costs were \$1.6m, representing 22% of our total expenses. Although the cost of running this service is significant, it's highly valued by our clients and carers, and we continue to invest heavily in our equipment library.

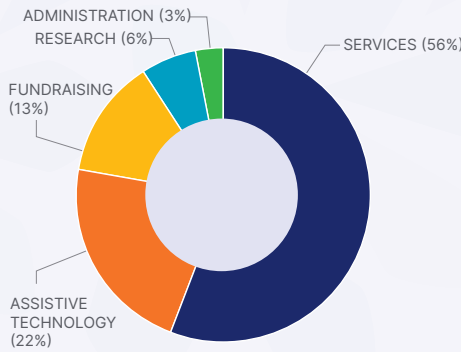
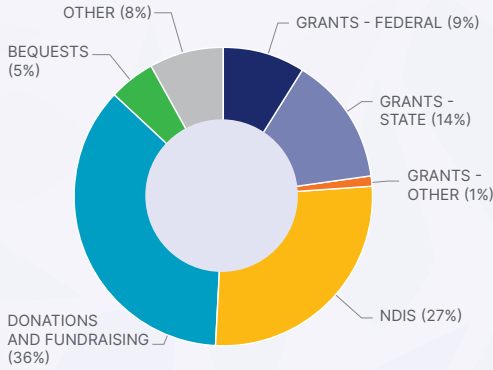
Fundraising and communication costs increased by 10% in FY23 to \$998k. I'm pleased to report that the financial return on this investment through donations, fundraising income and bequests was better than budgeted and stronger than industry benchmarks. More importantly though, our events have been extraordinarily well attended and raised valuable awareness of MND and our Association, while also providing a great forum for the community to come together.

Total research expenditure in FY23 came in at \$478k, compared to \$297k in FY22. This significant increase was due in part to the awarding of research grants using funds from the Ella Whaley Research Fund that was setup last year following a bequest from the Estate of Ella Whaley. The grant was used to fund projects with our partners at Calvary Health Care Bethlehem into neck weakness, exercise interventions, and voice banking.

Administration costs meanwhile remained relatively flat at 3% of total expenses.

FINANCES
2022/23

2022/23 FINANCE FACTS:



INCOME	2022-23	2021-22
Grants – Federal (9%)	683,353	832,345
Grants – State (14%)	985,542	679,774
Grants – Other (1%)	72,000	545,034
NDIS (27%)	1,965,166	2,162,423
Donations and Fundraising (36%)	2,574,212	2,207,187
Bequests (5%)	337,591	2,611,324
Other (8%)	553,849	381,309
	7,171,713	9,419,395
EXPENDITURE	2022-23	2021-22
Services (56%)	4,241,829	3,502,171
Assistive Technology (22%)	1,620,191	1,741,854
Fundraising and Communications (13%)	998,467	905,395
Research (6%)	478,460	297,955
Administration (3%)	214,369	222,805
	7,553,315	6,670,181

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The Association maintains a healthy balance sheet with cash reserves of \$3.7m and investments of close to \$10m that it can call upon to fund large projects and generates important investment income for operations. State Council, together with the management team, have worked diligently over the last decade to build this safety net to future proof our Association and ensure that we will be able to continue our good work throughout the current and future economic shocks.

We invested \$503k during the Financial Year in our property, plant, and equipment. This included \$288k of assistive technology pieces such as wheelchairs, recliners,

commodes, ramps and beds. We are committed to continued investment in this space to ensure that our clients have access to the very best assistive technology designed with their needs in mind.

Although our assets under management grew significantly in FY23, so too did our liabilities which jumped from \$960k at the end of FY22 to \$1.7m at balance date FY23. This was largely due to the recognition of \$891k of income received in advance which was up from just \$249k in the comparative period. This sizable increase was due to grants paid to us from FightMND for work to be completed in FY24, and a change in accounting policy relating to equipment bundle revenue which was recognised upfront in FY22 but is now recognised as earned throughout the loan period.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

The Statement of Cash Flows focusses solely on the generation and use of cash, stripping away accounting adjustments such as depreciation and our change of policy regarding equipment bundle revenue recognition. It is perhaps a better financial statement to judge our ability to continue operating as a going concern than the statement of financial performance that reports an accounting profit or loss.

In FY23, we generated \$7.67m in cash receipts and spent \$7m in payments to employees and suppliers to serve our clients, leaving us with a cash surplus from operating activities of \$678k.

This is a solid result that gives State Council the confidence to continue investing in our services into the future.

SUMMARY

I'm pleased to report that the Association remains financially strong and is managing the difficult macro-economic environment we find ourselves in well. Despite making a small accounting operating loss, our day-to-day operations continue to be cash-positive which is thanks in no small way to you, our supporters. Although government grants and NDIS fee-for-service income combined remain our greatest source of income, the generous donations and bequests we receive from supporters allow us to provide a level of care to those living with MND, and their family and carers, that just wouldn't be possible if we relied on government income alone.

Thanks also to our State Councillors who freely offer their experience and time for the betterment of the Association. And finally, I give my thanks to our CEO, Kate Johnson, her management team, and the staff and volunteers who continue to work tirelessly in support of our mission to provide and promote the very best of care, until there is a cure.

Jeremy Urbach
State Council Treasurer

Callum Terrill
Manager – Finance and Business Support



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2022/23

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue	6,619,944	9,040,699
Other Income	551,769	378,696
Reversal of Payable to MND Care Foundation	-	7,891,242
Employee benefits expense	(4,175,374)	(3,830,037)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	(418,804)	(368,192)
Research grants	(362,894)	(253,276)
Other expenses	(2,596,243)	(2,218,676)
Operating surplus for the year after income tax	(381,602)	10,640,456
Other Comprehensive Income		
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to surplus of deficit</i>		
Net fair value increase / (decrease) on revaluation of financial assets	358,320	(748,942)
Net fair value increase / (decrease) on revaluation of land and buildings	490,500	-
Total other comprehensive income for the year	848,820	(748,942)
Total comprehensive income before transfer to reserves	467,218	9,891,514
Less transfer to reserves - MND Care Foundation	(379,138)	(8,328,383)
Plus transfer from reserves - Ella Whaley Research Fund	67,994	(2,220,818)
Total transfers to reserves	(311,144)	(10,549,201)
Total comprehensive income after transfer to reserves	156,074	(657,687)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at June 30 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,733,882	4,699,960
Trade debtors	158,211	18,757
Inventories	29,928	53,860
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	9,988,173	8,431,497
Other assets	96,333	64,799
Total current assets	14,006,527	13,268,873
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	3,852,413	3,381,862
Total non-current assets	3,852,413	3,381,862
TOTAL ASSETS	17,858,940	16,650,735
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	410,135	226,757
Income received in advance	891,460	248,555
Employee entitlements	398,961	484,257
Total current liabilities	1,700,557	959,569
Non-current liabilities		
Employee Entitlements	8,054	8,054
Total non-current liabilities	8,054	8,054
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,708,611	967,623
NET ASSETS	16,150,329	15,683,112
EQUITY		
Reserves	13,422,529	12,262,566
Retained earnings	2,727,800	3,420,546
TOTAL EQUITY	16,150,329	15,683,112

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022/23

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	RETAINED EARNINGS \$	RESERVES \$	TOTAL \$
2022			
Surplus / (Deficit) attributable to members of the Association	10,640,456	-	10,640,456
Other comprehensive income	-	(748,942)	(748,942)
Transfer (to) / from Reserves	(10,549,201)	10,549,201	-
Equity as at 30 June 2022	3,420,546	12,262,566	15,683,112
2023			
Surplus / (Deficit) attributable to members of the Association	(381,602)	-	(381,602)
Other comprehensive income	-	848,820	848,820
Transfer (to)/from Reserves	(311,144)	311,144	-
Equity as at 30 June 2022	2,727,801	13,422,529	16,150,329

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash from operating activities		
Receipts from donations and fundraising	2,911,803	4,818,511
Receipts from grants and services	4,211,593	4,219,721
Payments to suppliers and employees	(6,997,546)	(6,135,712)
Interest / dividends received	551,769	378,696
	677,619	3,281,216
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	75,092	94,350
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(503,387)	(903,460)
(Acquisition) / Disposal of financial assets	(1,215,402)	(878,674)
	(1,643,697)	(1,687,784)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(966,078)	1,593,432
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	4,699,960	3,106,528
Cash at end of Financial Year	3,733,882	4,699,960

Motor Neurone Disease Association of Victoria Inc Independent auditor's report to members

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Motor Neurone Disease Association of Victoria Inc. (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and State Council's declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Motor Neurone Disease Association of Victoria Inc. has been prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Other Information

The State Council are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Association's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Level 20, 181 William Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

+61 3 9824 8555

vic.info@williambuck.com
williambuck.com.au

William Buck is an association of firms, each trading under the name of William Buck across Australia and New Zealand with affiliated offices worldwide.
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of State Council and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The council of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012 and for such internal control as state council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

The State Council are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by state council.

WilliamBuck

ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the state councils use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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



William Buck Audit (Vic) Pty Ltd
ABN 59 116 151 136



C. L. Sweeney
Director
Melbourne, 18 September 2023

**MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE
ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC**

ABN 44 113 484 160 Registered Association No. A7518

265 Canterbury Road (PO Box 23),
Canterbury, VIC 3126 Australia

Toll Free: 1800 777 175

Phone: (03) 9830 2122

Fax: (03) 9830 2228

✉ info@mnd.org.au

🖱 www.mnd.org.au

f www.facebook.com/MNDVIC

📷 www.instagram.com/mnd_vic

in www.linkedin.com/company/mndvic/

Supporting

people with MND to live as well as possible
for as long as possible

