



**SPORTING
WHEELIES**
& DISABLED ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT '22
FEB 2022 – JAN 2023





**SPORTING
WHEELIES**
& DISABLED ASSOCIATION

At Sporting Wheelies we are making active goals possible to enhance the lives of people with a disability through health and fitness, sport, active recreation and building inclusive communities, so that every Queenslanders with a disability will have opportunities to live a more active and healthy life.



Front Cover Image -

Photographer, Joep Buijs Photography



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ARE WORLD WHEELCHAIR
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY –

In keeping with the spirit of Reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work, exercise and play sport. We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging – and acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the community.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



MICHAEL DOBBIE-BRIDGES **CHAIR**

2022-23 has been a year of achievement in the face of ongoing uncertainty and we are sincerely grateful to everyone who has supported and worked with us. Personal highlights include; the launch of the CEO Wheelie Challenge which aims to raise awareness of disability in the workforce, and the resumption of our full suite of sports programs.

At the conclusion of this year, we farewelled our chair Anna Littleboy, who served as chair for the last four years. We thank Anna for her service and stewardship, and her dedication in guiding Sporting Wheelies through the challenges of COVID, taking a solution focus and commitment to continuous improvement. We also welcomed new board members, Vu Tran

and myself and after nearly three years as Director, we farewelled Elaine Jobson.

Over many years, the generosity and spirit of our partners and supporters has enabled thousands of people with a disability to experience the joy of living an active life and achieve their sporting potential. I am confident that the resilience and commitment to our values, shown over the last twelve months, will serve Sporting Wheelies well in the future as we move to our new home at Milton.

I would like to thank my fellow directors, Sporting Wheelies staff, members, clients and their families for their support during the past year and I look forward to working closely with you in the coming years to ensure we are delivering programs that suit your goals and enables to you participate in more inclusive sports.

SPORTING WHEELIES STRATEGY IS DRIVEN THROUGH OUR VALUES



WELLBEING

Empower more people of all abilities to improve their health and *wellbeing* by living a more active and social life.



THRIVING

Support our clients' choice to *thrive* in life, be it personal functional improvement or elite sporting success.



INCLUSIVE

Inspire activity through provision of clubhouse facilities and services that are fun, inviting, social and *inclusive*.



COMMUNITY

Maximise our reach and impact to increase *community* awareness of what is possible for people of all abilities.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MESSAGE

The past year has, in many ways, provided a sober reflection of the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sports industry, with the start-stop nature of the recovery combined with floods in Brisbane proving challenging for our operations, tough for our staff and frustrating for our clients and athletes.

Changes to traditional funding models and pressures on fundraising efforts have also impacted and delayed our service growth and expansion plans.

The past year has seen us navigate the depths of the "new normal" after the COVID-19 crisis, but with the support of our community also seen the turning point that gives us confidence in the future of Sporting Wheelies with the green and gold runway to the Brisbane 2032 Paralympics.

With the announcement of a new home for Sporting Wheelies at Milton and the significant support we have received from government and the community, we look forward to opening our new clubhouse in 2023 which will have a basketball court, multipurpose court, accessible gym and health and fitness services, an onsite social enterprise café and plenty of parking.

We also expanded our infrastructure with the awarding of a lease for Balmoral Bowls Club from the Brisbane City Council. Our vision for this site is to develop a clubhouse for kids with a disability to regularly socialise and play sport.

It is our responsibility to support, motivate and enable people with a disability to pursue their aspirations and realise their full active life potential. We support people to aspire for more and support them to not just dream big, but to take action on those dreams.



AMANDA MATHER CEO

But we can't do it alone. From corporate partners and sponsors to individual donors, lottery ticket purchasers and event fundraisers, every person and every cent raised helps us to achieve our mission – making active lives possible.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Para Clubhouse:**
We secured a lease at Milton to build our new Para Clubhouse, revolutionising opportunities for people with disabilities and provide a vital training hub in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032.
- **Wheelchair Rugby World Championships:**
Led by captain Chris Bond, our Australian Wheelchair Rugby team emerged as champions, showcasing exceptional performances at the World Championships.
- **Commonwealth Games Success:**
The Men's Wheelchair Basketball team won gold, the Women's team secured silver, and our para powerlifter bought home a bronze at the Commonwealth Games.
- **New Fundraising Initiatives:**
The successful 'CEO Wheelie Challenge' highlighted disability inclusion in the workplace and raised vital funds.
- **Expanded Health & Fitness Services:**
We introduced Hydrotherapy alongside Exercise Physiology, Physiotherapy, and Neuromoves therapy, offering diverse therapy options to suit individual needs.
- **Expanded Services Across Queensland:**
Exercise Physiology services were established in Townsville, and inclusive sports programs were introduced in remote indigenous communities, raising the expectations of what's possible for people with a disability.
- **Inclusive Sports in Queensland Schools:**
Over 3,700 students actively participated in our inclusive sports programs, breaking down misconceptions and encouraging all students to reach their potential.

SPORTING WHEELIES WHO ARE WE?

Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association is Queensland's leading provider of inclusive sports, recreation and rehabilitation therapy.

As the state's peak body for Para Sports, the not-for-profit organisation is committed to making active goals of all levels accessible for people with disability.

Through a range of statewide health and fitness programs for people of all ages, industry-leading rehabilitation, and science-based therapies, Sporting Wheelies provides the full spectrum of inclusive sporting opportunities for Queenslanders living with a disability.



OUR PURPOSE

We make active lives possible.



OUR VISION

Every Queenslanders with a disability will have opportunities to live a more active and healthy life.



OUR MISSION

Engage, empower and develop people with a disability to live a more healthy, active and fulfilled life of their choosing.

SPORTING WHEELIES ACROSS QUEENSLAND


5,167
MEMBERS,
CLIENTS +
SUPPORTERS

- Wheelchair Basketball
- Boccia
- Goalball
- Wheelchair Rugby
- Para Powerlifting
- Exercise Physiology
- Equal Ops
- Physiotherapy
- RecConnect
- Wheelchair Dancing



Fraser Coast

Hervey Bay

Sunshine Coast

Moreton Bay

Brisbane

Redlands

Gold Coast

Toowoomba



OUR IMPACT

"Without Sporting Wheelies, I wouldn't be the person I am today and be able to play a wonderful sport called Boccia. I have travelled the world competing and representing Australia. Now, I work as a Boccia coach in Hervey Bay and it brings me so much joy to introduce this amazing sport to our community."

LACHLAN KAVANAGH

AUSTRALIAN STEELERS ARE WORLD WHEELCHAIR RUGBY CHAMPIONS



The Australian Steelers emerged as Wheelchair Rugby World Champions after defeating the United States 58-55 in a thrilling final in the World Cup held in Denmark.

Australian captain Chris Bond expressed his team's remarkable journey, stating, "We were written off three months ago and now we are the best wheelchair rugby team in the world." Bond's leadership proved exceptional in his role as Australian captain, guiding his teammates through crucial moments and demonstrating the way forward.

Sporting Wheelies members representing Australia include Joshua Nicholson, Ella Sabljak, Michael Ozanne and Chris Bond.

The hard-fought final became a battle of endurance, a testament to the Steelers' rigorous training, physical condition, and dedicated staff. Bond credited their success to a well-crafted plan, stating, "We meticulously devised a strong strategy, and we had the belief that we could achieve it." He expressed the desire to maintain their current momentum, emphasizing the profound satisfaction derived from their triumph. He remarked, "This feeling of pride is indescribable. This is the very reason we dedicate ourselves to this sport."



2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES PARA POWERLIFTING



Bronze for Australia in Para Powerlifting

Queenslander athlete Hani Watson showcased her remarkable talent by clinching the Bronze medal in Para Powerlifting at the highly anticipated Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. With an impressive lift of 127kg, almost 30kg more than her own body weight, Watson's achievement is even more remarkable considering she made her international debut just six months prior. Her outstanding performance has solidified her position as one of the world's top eight para powerlifters.

The victory comes as a result of Watson's previous triumph at the 2022 Para Powerlifting Brisbane Classic, where she claimed the Gold medal, subsequently securing her selection for the Commonwealth Games. This significant win not only marks a personal milestone for Watson but also holds great significance for Australia, as it is the nation's first Commonwealth Games Para Powerlifting medal since 2006.

2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Australia takes home Gold

Australia achieved a historic victory, winning the first ever Commonwealth Games 3x3 wheelchair men's basketball gold medal. The men defeated Canada to come home with the Gold Medal in the 2022 Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham. The women's team also had a successful competition, coming away with a silver medal.

Sporting Wheelies staff member, Nick Such was selected as the Head Coach, with Alison Mosely as Assistant. The Australian squad composed of Queenslanders, Ella Sabljak-McShane, Hannah Dodd, Kurt Thomson, and Lachlin Dalton.

A highlight of the games was when 21-year-old Queensland Lachlin Dalton was pivotal in propelling Australia into the finals. In a tight semi-final match that went into overtime, Lachlin sank an incredible 2-pointer to secure Australia's place in the gold medal match. It was the first time the 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball format had been played at the Commonwealth Games. Speed, skill and strength, along with exceptional shooting ability, are prized talents required of athletes in this format.





BOCCIA

Boccia Tri-Series was successfully held over June/July and August 2022.

The Tri-Series is an extension of the social program. It is an opportunity for athletes to play competitively in the lead-up to the State Titles, the Boccia Battle that was held in September.

Sporting Wheelies has partnered with Boccia Australia to develop a talent development identifying hub in Queensland.

The talent development program (Qld-HUB) will provide talented athletes, coaches, and ramp operators with a Daily Training Environment (DTE) that supports personal development, skills of the game, competition readiness and a love of game, for athletes to be the best that they can be and have the opportunity to compete at the highest level.







GOALBALL

The Queensland Goalball State Championships was held in July in Albion. The two-day event saw participants from across Australia come to compete.

The Australian National Goalball Championships 2022 were held in Melbourne at the end of September. The Queensland athletes had a very successful competition. At the end of all round robin games both Qld Men & Qld Youth finished at the top of their division. Sidney Whipp was awarded the Youth Most Valuable Player. The All Star 6 were also winners with Sidney Whipp and Sean Kendrick as team mates. Raissa Martin was awarded an individual award. The Queensland Men All Star 6 came home with a silver medal after a narrow defeat to NSW in the final.







WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Sporting Wheelies Wheelchair Basketball Programs across Queensland are designed to create pathways for athletes, enabling them to progress from social participation programs to higher levels of state and national competitions.

"The Classics," the State Championships for Wheelchair Basketball, took place over three days at the end of April. This event served as a valuable platform for athletes to gain valuable competition experience and exhibit their skills, with the potential for selection in State representative teams. The competition featured three levels of play, including social, A grade, and Premier grade. This allowed players of all skill levels, from beginners to elite athletes, to participate and enhance their abilities.

In July, Sporting Wheelies proudly hosted the Brisbane round of the National Wheelchair Basketball League. This league served as a crucial competition in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games selection process, providing athletes with a valuable opportunity to showcase their talent and vie for a spot in the national team.







WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

The Wheelchair Rugby National League underwent a format change in 2022, which involved the inclusion of local Rugby Union teams as sponsors for individual teams.

Sporting Wheelies collaborated with local Rugby Union teams, Brothers and The University of Queensland. This local sponsorship was instrumental in leveraging community support to grow awareness of the sport. Sporting Wheelies teams performed very well in the competition with the University of Queensland team emerging victorious to snare the inaugural trophy.

The 2022 Wheelchair Rugby National Championships was held on the Gold Coast in June. This event attracted talented athletes from all across Australia, serving as the pinnacle of domestic Wheelchair Rugby competitions. The Championships offered a remarkable platform to showcase the sport's thrilling nature and extraordinary skills. Queensland displayed impressive performance, reaching the grand final, which took the form of a state of origin-style contest between New South Wales and Queensland. Despite Queensland's best efforts, New South Wales emerged victorious on the day, displaying their exceptional skills and securing the title.







PARA POWERLIFTING

SPORT + RECREATION



The Australia 2022 National Para Powerlifting Competition was held in Brisbane in April. Athletes came from across Australia and overseas.

The International sanctioned competition at Sporting Wheelies was supported by Commonwealth Games Australia and Paralympics Australia. The competition was particularly important as it was the final opportunity for athletes to qualify for the Commonwealth Games. International classification was an important component of the program.

OUR COMMUNITY

"I thought I was just concussed, but then I saw my arms and legs just dangling underneath me..." – Luke, Sporting Wheelies Game Changer, and spinal cord injury survivor.

In just a split second, Luke's life was changed forever.

Like many Australians, Luke enjoyed spending time on the beach. But what started as a fun and carefree trip with his friends almost ended in tragedy for the active young tradie. The 21-year-old jumped headfirst off a jetty and hit a sandbank hidden beneath the waves.

Unfortunately, Luke's neck was broken. He was rushed to the PA Hospital, where he would face many months of surgeries and specialised care. After six long months in the Spinal Injuries Unit, Luke was finally ready to face life in the community as a quadriplegic.

It was then that he was introduced to Sporting Wheelies. Coming in twice a week for rehabilitation therapy, he was able to build his core strength and improve his ability to control his muscles.

The difference was enormous. When he first left hospital, Luke needed to be strapped into his wheelchair. After working with Sporting Wheelies, he can now sit in his wheelchair without the need for a chest or foot strap. Amazingly, he has also developed the core muscles needed to be able to stand and is able to dress himself – things he was told he would never do again.

"After my accident I thought I was going to go home and be a nobody. That was until I met the Wheelchair Rugby guys. I saw what they were doing with their lives. This gave me a new outlook on what was



possible for my life."

These days, Luke focusses on what he can do, rather than what he can't. He's driving again and doesn't need to rely on a support worker to be with him all the time. He is more independent, more confident, and has more control over his life.

He is also able to help others facing similar challenges: employed as a Game Changer with Sporting Wheelies, he goes back into

the hospital every week to meet and inspire other people who are recovering from spinal cord injuries.

Sporting Wheelies and Wheelchair Rugby truly transformed Luke's life. More than just physical rehabilitation; Luke found community support, friendships, and has been given the opportunity to compete at a national level.



HEALTH + FITNESS

It was an unsettling start to the year with the Brisbane floods impacting the delivery of services in Albion, and then a wave of COVID through our Health & Fitness team staff.

By embracing these challenges and providing alternative means of service delivery, the team were able to overcome the initial impact of the challenges faced.

Overwhelming interest from clients and staff saw the beginning of a Hydrotherapy program early in 2022. There are so many positive benefits to Hydrotherapy, and we were delighted to be able to offer this as an additional avenue to assist with overall health and wellbeing. Led by our Physiotherapist, the program was delivered at the Colmslie pool initially one day per week, however quickly increased to two days per week.

In October of 2022, we welcomed a new Exercise Physiologist in Townsville after what was a long recruitment process to find the right person. The aim of this role is to support the growth of our health, fitness and para sport community in the region through sports coaching, strength and conditioning and exercise therapy services.



We treat 65 + different types of disabilities including:

- Acquired Brain Injury
- Amputees
- Blind/Vision impaired
- Cerebral Palsy
- Friedrich's Ataxia
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Neurological conditions
- Parkinsons
- Spinal Cord conditions
- Spina Bifida and hydrocephalus
- Stroke





LOCATIONS
BRISBANE (ALBION)
& TOWNSVILLE



**20,246
SESSIONS**



**90% CLIENT
SATISFACTION**



33% GROWTH
IN NEW CLIENTS VS PREVIOUS YEAR



**65+ DISABILITY
TYPES**
INCLUDING PHYSICAL &
INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENTS

STUDENTS



**32 STUDENTS FROM
8 UNIVERSITIES**







HEALTH + FITNESS

Neuromoves is a specialised therapy to improve a person's quality of life through increased mobility and function, and involves an innovative, holistic, evidence-based exercise and therapy service, designed for people living with a spinal cord injury and other neurological conditions.

Partnering with SCIA provides our staff with the opportunity to work closely with other Physiotherapists and Exercise Physiologists and learn from industry specialists. We are committed to providing staff with further education, continued learning and development, and access to the latest research to ensure ongoing support and growth of staff, and continual improvement in service delivery and client outcomes.

Sporting Wheelies values the long-term partnership with SCIA and the professional relationships developed with their staff.





EQUAL OPS GROUP TRAINING

HEALTH + FITNESS

Just like playing sport, the social benefits of group training are just as impactful as the physical benefits.

Equal Op's group training is a functional group training session for all abilities, which is run twice per week. After a hard workout, often the sessions end with a coffee and social catch-up at a local coffee shop.

GROUP
TRAINING
IS FOR
EVERYONE!





Hydrotherapy is a valuable addition to the exercise therapy offerings, promoting a range of benefits including pain relief, increased range of motion, enhanced cardiovascular fitness and many more.



EXPANDING ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES – HYDROTHERAPY



"A year ago, I made the best decision that I've made in a long time. I contacted Sporting Wheelies and enquired about their gym.

I booked a day to come in and check it out and I haven't looked back since. Sporting Wheelies isn't just a gym it's my safe space and somewhere I can connect with people who understand what it's like to live with a disability.

I've met some of the most amazing people who have not only taught me so much and have been able to build friendships with which I'll forever cherish.

The Exercise Physiologists are some of the most loyal hard-working and dedicated people I've come across. The work you guys put into your clients weekly doesn't go unnoticed, and I'm forever grateful to have built connections with most of you. You've all seen me at my lowest, and at my highest, yet still encourage me to keep going when it gets tough.

Before joining the gym, I was extremely unhappy. I thought my physical appearance wasn't great, and my mental health declined pretty quickly, so the fact that I found this place decided to make a change, and I've stuck to it is a huge achievement for myself.

I have so much to be grateful for and this Gym is definitely one of them. It's crazy how one place can change you in the most positive way, and I wouldn't change it for the world."



INCLUSIVE SCHOOL SPORT PROGRAM



Sporting Wheelies 'Raising the Bar' initiative fosters inclusivity through Para Sports.

This program seeks to change community perceptions of what individuals with disabilities can achieve. The program aims to debunk myths and misconceptions while encouraging all students to participate in inclusive para-sports like Goalball, Boccia, Wheelchair Rugby, and Wheelchair Basketball. Aligned with the Australian school curriculum, the program aims to foster inclusivity and enable students to unleash their full potential.

Delivered in schools by a team of Game Changers, individuals with firsthand experience of disability and para-athletes, the program aims to educate students about disabilities and Paralympic sports. By showcasing that anyone can achieve and set active goals, the Game Changers serve as a powerful source of inspiration, urging students to surpass perceived limitations.

Through the power of sports, this initiative is paving the way for a more inclusive and empowering future.



**OVER 3,700
CHILDREN**

HAVE PARTICIPATED IN
OUR SCHOOL SESSIONS



I CAN YOU CAN PROJECT

Implementing inclusive sport and exercise therapy programs in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is crucial to promote inclusion, empower individuals with disabilities, strengthen community connections, and inspire local role models, ultimately raising expectations and expanding opportunities for young Indigenous people.

Through a collaborative partnership with Artie Academy, we aim to strengthen their connection to country and community while fostering the development of local role models. The premise behind the "I can, you can" is to teach children what they are capable of while simultaneously building capacity among teachers and community leaders, enabling them to provide effective support to children with disabilities. This comprehensive approach, delivered by the Sporting Wheelies Game Changers, ensures holistic empowerment and engagement within the community.





CORPORATE PARA-SPORTS EXPERIENCE

RAISING THE BAR

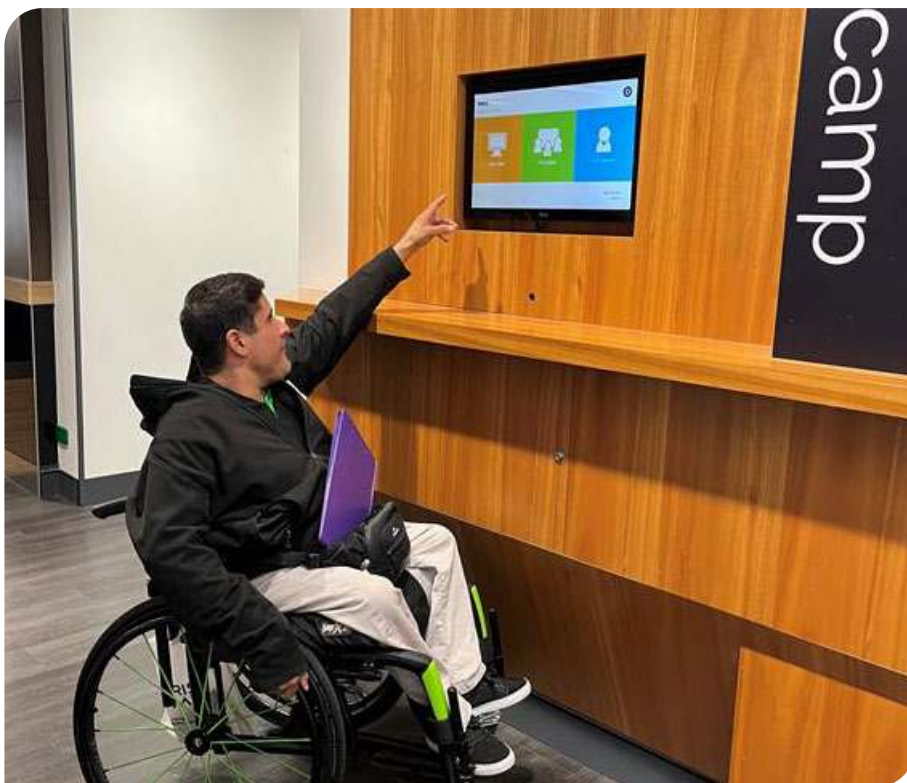
Sporting Wheelies Corporate Team Building Experiences aim to foster inclusive workplaces. This unique program effectively dismantles misconceptions and dispels myths surrounding disability, diversity and inclusion.

The team building sessions are thoughtfully designed to immerse workplace teams in the perspective of individuals with disabilities, allowing them to gain firsthand experience.

Through interactive activities, participants have the opportunity to learn wheelchair skills and engage in para-sports, offering them a taste of the challenges and triumphs faced by individuals with disabilities. Led by our Game Changers, these sessions create a dynamic environment where inspiring stories of personal journeys and resilience are shared.

The Corporate Team Building Experiences offered by Sporting Wheelies not only promote teamwork and camaraderie but also cultivate a deeper understanding of the diverse experiences and capabilities of individuals with disabilities. By challenging preconceived notions and encouraging empathy, this program contributes to the development of inclusive workplaces that value diversity and foster an environment of mutual respect and support.





Sporting Wheelies' Active Access Assessments offer a comprehensive assessment of businesses, workplaces, and retail locations to evaluate their accessibility.

Leveraging the lived experiences of our Game Changers, who have disabilities themselves, these audits provide valuable insights into the usability of various sites, covering all aspects from parking facilities to entry points, circulation spaces, staff knowledge, facilities, and overall presentation of products and services.

While many sites may comply with Australian Standards and regulatory codes regarding accessibility, our Game Changers bring a unique perspective that goes beyond mere compliance. They provide firsthand accounts of the actual experiences individuals with disabilities encounter. Whether it's addressing challenges faced by individuals with visual impairments or accommodating those with high support needs, the insights provided by our Game Changers offer practical guidance on how businesses can better cater to the needs of people with disabilities. Their lived experiences offer invaluable knowledge to improve the overall accessibility and inclusivity of businesses and public spaces.



PARA CLUBHOUSE

OUR COMMUNITY

Sporting Wheelies is thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of the Para Clubhouse. The Para Clubhouse is the first of its kind in Australia. It will combine industry leading facilities, sports courts with world-class rehabilitation and support services, bringing together disability experts, allied health specialists and Para Sport coaches to improve the lives of people with a disability.

The Sporting Wheelies Para Clubhouse will serve as an inclusive sports hub, empowering people with disabilities to engage in physical activities, enjoy themselves, and socialise with friends. The Para Clubhouse will provide a welcoming environment for individuals to connect and form new connections. In its second stage, a café will be introduced, allowing visitors to share a coffee and catch up with friends.

To cater to various sports, the Clubhouse will feature a full-size Wheelchair Basketball court and a versatile multi-purpose court. This will enable the venue to host a range of sports, including Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Basketball, Goalball, Boccia, and other emerging sports. Creating more opportunities for participation and competition pathways.

The Para Clubhouse will also feature a new gym and fitness centre, where therapeutic services such as Exercise Physiology, Physiotherapy, and Neuromoves will be provided. These offerings will contribute to the overall wellbeing and health of our members.

We want to thank the dedicated team of builders, project managers, contractors, and tradespeople who have played an integral role in bringing this visionary project to life. Their unwavering community support has made it possible to develop this facility, which will undoubtedly be a game-changing addition to our community.





OUR COMMUNITY

At Sporting Wheelies, community is very important. We create opportunities for people to come together as a community to meet friends, have a chat, share stories, brainstorm ideas, and build deeper friendships.

Sporting Wheelies is a space where you can connect with people who are on a similar journey, and together, you can see what incredible things are possible.

In 2022, one of our highlights was "Train the Trainer", where our members challenged our Exercise Physiologists to perform select exercises.

The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation as the clients eagerly chose a variety of exercises to challenge the staff. From intense exercises like burpees, to demanding routines like Battle ropes, the clients left no room for leniency.

Sporting Wheelies is all about bringing our community together, celebrating our unique abilities, and lifting each other up. We believe that when we connect, share our stories, and encourage one another, amazing things happen.





CEO WHEELIE CHALLENGE

Sporting Wheelies proudly introduced the inaugural CEO Wheelie Challenge in 2022, inviting CEOs and business leaders to experience a day in a wheelchair. The challenge aimed to raise awareness about the importance of disability inclusivity in the workplace and raise vital funds.

Thank you to all the CEOs and business leaders who participated in the CEO Wheelie Challenge. Their enthusiastic engagement demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting inclusivity and supporting individuals with disabilities.

The campaign initially set a fundraising goal of \$100,000, but it surpassed expectations by reaching an impressive total of \$110,332 in funds raised. These funds will play a crucial role in supporting Sporting Wheelies' efforts to enable more individuals with disabilities to engage in active lifestyles.

The success of the CEO Wheelie Challenge, both in raising vital funds and advocating for more inclusive workplaces, serve as a testament to the power of collaborative efforts in driving positive change. These accomplishments will have a lasting impact on communities, allowing Sporting Wheelies to continue providing essential support and opportunities for individuals with disabilities throughout Queensland.



"It helped to open the eyes and awareness of the QRL to the challenges people with disabilities and in wheelchairs in particular face on a daily basis. It certainly challenged our team to look at what they are doing individually and collectively as an organisation and will only help us to be better in this space in the future."

Scott Nosworthy,
State Strategy
Manager, Queensland
Rugby League (QRL)



OUR COMMUNITY





FUNDRAISING TARGET
\$100,000



2022 CEO WHEELIE
CHALLENGE RAISED
\$110,332



MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



Media opportunities have been harnessed to maximise our reach and increase community awareness of what is possible for people of all abilities.



37.8 MILLION
TOTAL MEDIA REACH



186 NEWS STORIES
POSITIVE MEDIA COVERAGE

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

f FACEBOOK
↑ 460.5%
REACH 265,037

@ INSTAGRAM
↑ 234.2%
REACH 110,479



Sporting Wheelies secure new Milton HQ in 'game-changing' deal for group



ENGAGING WITH GOVERNMENT

Building strong ties with government plays a vital role in advocating for people with disabilities.

Our collaboration with policymakers and decision-makers amplifies the voices of athletes and individuals, shaping inclusive policies, securing funding for adaptive sports programs, driving systemic change, and fostering collaboration with key stakeholders. Through our strong government connections, Sporting Wheelies ensures that the needs of individuals with disabilities are championed, creating a more inclusive society where sports and active living are accessible to all.





OUR PEOPLE



AMANDA MATHER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Amanda Mather is passionate about creating a positive community for people of all abilities. As CEO of Sporting Wheelies, Amanda's focus is to forge opportunities for people to reach their full potential. Creating communities to bring people together through the power of sport. Amanda's vision is to raise the bar on what is possible for people with a disability.

With a career in healthcare spanning over 25 years, Amanda has enjoyed a diverse career in government, commercial and healthcare sectors.

Amanda is harnessing this experience to ensure that the legacy of Brisbane 2032 creates a better community for all Australians, particularly those living with a disability. Brisbane 2032 will create the platform to move to a more inclusive society, increase accessibility, create pathways for people with a disability to become involved in sport and overall increase the health and wellbeing of Australians.

Creating strong, mutually beneficial working relationships with major stakeholders is a focus of Amanda's role as CEO. She works with the community to assist more people with a disability to participate in sport, and drive authentic inclusion.



83%
WOMEN IN
LEADERSHIP ROLES



45%
OF OUR EMPLOYEES
HAVE A DISABILITY



OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP US DELIVER
OUR HEALTH, SPORT, RECREATION & FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS!



OUR GAME CHANGERS

Sporting Wheelies employs a team of over 35 amazing individuals we call Game Changers.

Having a firsthand experience with disability, our Game Changers actively engage with the community by introducing inclusive sports in schools, organising corporate experiences, conducting Active Access Audits and advocating for positive change. They're the driving force to make a lasting impact in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

"As a Game Changer, I have the privilege of speaking to students and sharing my journey of acquiring my disability and excelling as an elite para athlete. It's crucial to educate children about the challenges and needs of people with disabilities, helping them develop empathy and understanding. By sharing our stories and achievements, we empower them to break barriers and embrace inclusivity in their own lives."

– Leigh Skinner, Commonwealth Games athlete and Game Changer



RAISING THE BAR



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MICHAEL DOBBIE-BRIDGES
CHAIR – APPOINTED MARCH 2023

Michael joined the Board of Sporting Wheelies as a Director in July 2022. He is a Paralympian who represented Australia at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games and 6 World Team Cups in Wheelchair Tennis. Experienced Senior Advisor with a demonstrated history of achieving outcomes in the government administration industry. Skilled in Government, Communications, Strategy, Policy and Stakeholder engagement.



GARY LINTON
DEPUTY CHAIR

As a professional CEO/Managing Director with over 30 years' experience successfully managing and growing a diverse range of companies in Professional Services and System Integration, Gary provides a wealth of knowledge to the Board. Gary is a founder and Managing Director of Linton Howard, Non-Executive Director/Chairman of companies in the education, IT, financial services and construction sectors, providing invaluable experience to the Board.



PROFESSOR ANNA LITTLEBOY
FORMER CHAIR – RESIGNED MARCH 2022

Anna is a Professor at the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute and has had a long and international career working to improve the contribution of the minerals industry to global sustainability as society seeks solutions to climate change and energy security for future generations.

Anna has a progressive degenerative condition affecting her cerebellum which means that as she ages, she struggles more and more with balance, coordination, speech and fine motor control. Adapted sport and exercise physiology are helping to keep her on her feet as long as possible. She is delighted to work with Sporting Wheelies and enable greater access to these activities for all.



Anna Littleboy resigned from the board on 4 March 2022 and Michael Dobbie-Bridges became Chair. Elaine Jobson resigned from the board in August, 2022.



ANDREW WEEDEN
TREASURER

Focusing on financial oversight, risk, compliance and strategic issues and initiatives, Andrew has a broad array of experience working with finance teams, executive teams and Boards. Andrew has national and international experience across many sectors, is a registered company auditor and accredited due diligence partner. Approaching 28 years of experience at PwC, Andrew provides broad knowledge of potential issues in commercial and finance areas.



SANDIE ANGUS
SECRETARY

Sitting on numerous Boards in the disability and sporting sectors, Sandie provides extensive experience to the Board. Sandie displays strong leadership qualities, being part of multiple mentoring programs. Having experience with legal, governance and risk management, Sandie is a valuable member to the Board.



MICHAEL JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Michael is a Company Director, Barrister and Professional Mediator with strong interests in Business, Entrepreneurship and Social Capital. He is Chairman of the Advisory Board of Orbitz Elevators and Executive Director of Kokoda Capital, and sits on the Advisory Boards of Black Sky Aerospace (BSA) and Grabba Technology Group. Michael was born in Hong Kong and is a proficient speaker of Chinese. He obtained an Arts & Law degree from the University of Queensland and holds Dual Masters' Degrees in public policy, political science and international relations.



VU TRAN
DIRECTOR – APPOINTED JULY 2022

Vu is a co-founder of Australian education technology company Go1 as well as a non-executive director at PeopleIN, Australia's largest ASX-listed talent solutions company. A graduate of Bond University, Vu is also a medical doctor and practicing general practitioner, who trained at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and is a fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

1 FEB 2022 – 31 JAN 2023

The 2022-23 financial year continued to present a number of financial and operational challenges for Sporting Wheelies.

Our financial performance and position were adversely impacted by various factors such as reduced income from grants and the Art Union, award increases, closures due to the Brisbane floods, the continuing effects of Covid through the early part of 2022, and losses on the transition of high performance sport to other sporting organisations. This resulted in a net loss for the year of \$772,471. Although there were some positive contributions from individual initiatives including the CEO Wheelie Challenge, the targeted contribution from other new initiatives was not achieved.

Management is aiming to improve the financial results, cash flows and financial position of the Association through the following performance improvement initiatives in 2023:

- Investment in securing additional income sources, which includes expansion of services
- New initiatives in fundraising income and business development
- Implementation of a new pricing model for Sports & Recreation
- Introduction of initiatives at the new site at Milton
- Additional cost saving initiatives

The Association has faced a long term decline in revenues and profit from the Art Union, which was previously the largest source of funding for the Association's activities.

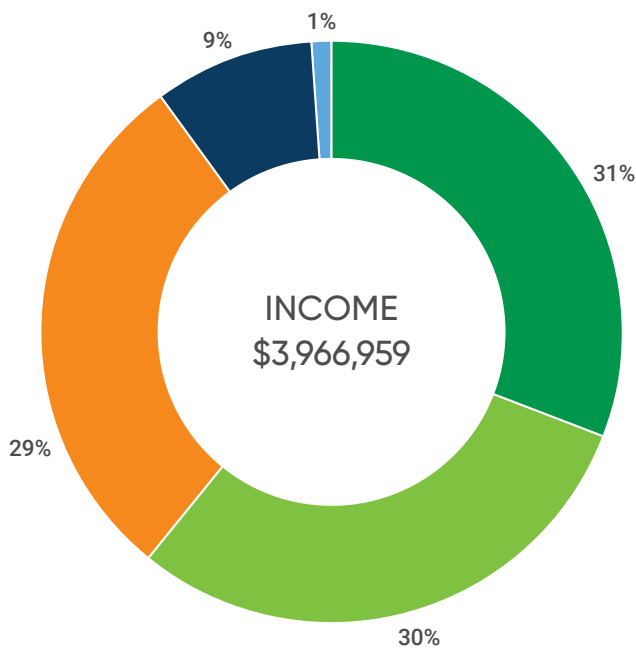
A cash flow forecast has been prepared, which indicates there will be sufficient cash flows to meet all commitments and working capital requirements for the 12-month period from the date of signing the financial report. However, the financial report does include disclosures regarding the uncertainty following what has been another year of losses and cash outflows.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

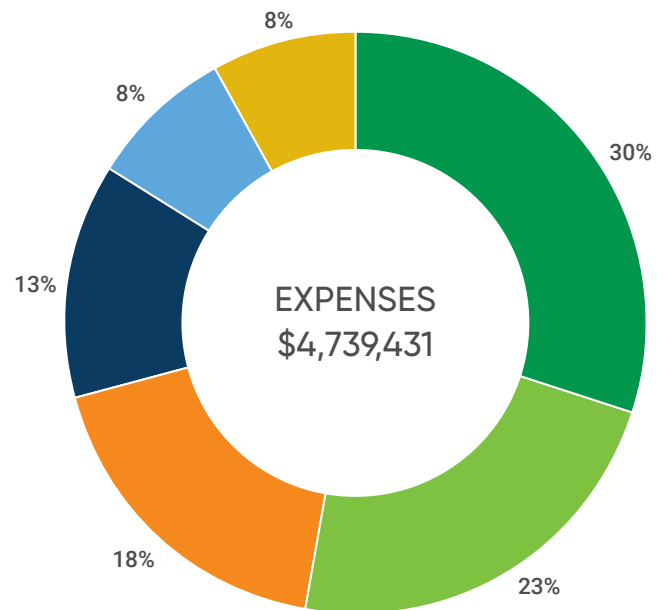
1 FEB 2022 – 31 JAN 2023

WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM



Art Union	31%
Service Delivery	30%
Grants	29%
Fundraising	9%
Other Income	1%

HOW WE SPEND OUR FUNDING



Health & Fitness	30%
Art Union	23%
Sport & Recreation	18%
School Programs	13%
High Performance Program	8%
Business Development & Fundraising	8%

General and Administrative costs are attributed to each program based on proportional employment costs.

FUNDRAISING

We're thrilled to share the success of our new fundraising initiative in partnership with Westfield Chermside Shopping Centre during last Christmas.

Our collaboration involved gift-wrapping services, with all proceeds directly benefiting Sporting Wheelies. Thanks to the incredible support from volunteers who generously donated their time.

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who made this achievement possible!



THE FUNDRAISING EFFORT EXCEEDED
EXPECTATIONS, RAISING OVER

\$30,794



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS + SPONSORS

We would like to thank all our donors, partners, friends, families and the community for your generous support. We are grateful your continued support helps us make active goals accessible for people with disabilities.

IN PARTICULAR WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNISE:



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



Department of Tourism,
Innovation and Sport



The estates of Dorothy Jean Taylor, Zilah Alma Wagg and Mary Adel Hamilton.

A special thanks to all of our Gold Choice lottery supporters who continue to support us year after year. Funds raised from our lotteries help us to continue our work across Queensland.

To all our donors, regular donors and partners your ongoing support is much appreciated. Contributions, large or small, have made a significant impact on Sporting Wheelies and our members' futures.

TO MAKE A DONATION

PH: 07 3253 3333

sportingwheelies.org.au/donate



**SPORTING
WHEELIES**
& DISABLED ASSOCIATION

Sporting Wheelies & Disabled Association

Phone: (07) 3253 3333

Email: mailbox@sportingwheelies.org.au

sportingwheelies.org.au

