

TOKYO 2020

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**SPORTING
WHEELIES**
& DISABLED ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT '21
FEB 2021 – JAN 2022



**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.

Image above – Joep Buijs Photography.

Front cover image – Chris Bond, Tokyo 2020 (2021) Paralympics.

Photographer, Megumi Masuda.



6

AND THE WINNER IS ...
BRISBANE TO HOST THE
2032 PARALYMPIC GAMES!



27

PHYSIOTHERAPY
SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE



30

RAISING THE BAR –
LAUNCHED INCLUSIVE SPORTS
PROGRAM TO QLD SCHOOLS

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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.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MESSAGE



AMANDA MATHER CEO

While we continued to manage the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 on our health and fitness services, sports programs and events, this year also created important space for us to focus on the future and to build our strategy in the lead up to Brisbane 2032.

In March, we commenced a collaborative process involving our athletes, clients, staff and Board to develop our Strategic Plan 2021-24. This plan will drive an exciting future for Sporting Wheelies as we strengthen our focus on delivering on our four key goals:

1. Empowering more people of all abilities to improve their health and wellbeing by living a more active and social life
2. Supporting our clients' choice to thrive in life be it personal functional improvement or elite sporting success
3. Inspire activity through provision of clubhouse facilities and services that are fun, inviting, social and inclusive
4. Maximise our reach and impact to increase community awareness of what is possible for people of all abilities.

We will seek to expand our infrastructure and locations across Queensland as we embark on creating Inclusive Sports Clubhouses, based on our head office at Dover St, Albion, where people with a disability can come together to work out or receive allied health care, play sport and socialise.

I regularly hear stories about our clients and athletes achieving their goals and thriving in life. It is a wonderful reminder of why our purpose to make active lives possible is so important. It is thanks to our committed and caring staff that have tackled the challenges of the pandemic and uncertain economic conditions that we have been able to achieve so much.

I have full confidence in the spirit of our team to continue to provide quality services for our clients and athletes so they can achieve in life or in elite sporting success and I look forward to Sporting Wheelies leading the way in innovation in Para-sports as we set our sights on the Brisbane 2032 Paralympics.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Tokyo 2020, held in 2021, provided a wonderful platform for 27 of our alumni athletes to compete on the world stage. Those athletes won 6 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze, which would have placed Sporting Wheelies ahead of many other countries on the medal tally.
- We expanded our health and fitness services and sports with the launch of Equal Ops Group Fitness, introduction of physiotherapy services and coordination of a Wheelchair AFL season.
- Our Raising the Bar school program continued to grow with 35 Game Changers employed across Queensland to deliver the program.
- We strengthened our commitment to reconciliation with the delivery of the I Can You Can program, working in partnership with the Artie Academy, to more than 200 indigenous kids in Queensland.
- We hosted the Wheelchair Rugby National Competition on the Gold Coast in March which culminated in a head-to-head State of Origin final between NSW and Queensland. Unfortunately, NSW took the silverware this year.
- We collaborated with Paralympics Australia to provide training facilities for the National Goalball team in the lead up to the Paralympics as well as supporting Para-Powerlifting competitions.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Around the globe we have seen communities pulling together to address the challenges of 2021 – a continuing pandemic, the decimation of global travel, a rising crisis in the cost of living and difficulties accessing basic services.

These challenges often disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our society, which include individuals living with a disability. At these difficult times, the services provided through Sporting Wheelies are at their most powerful, providing hope, support and access to others through sports and fitness. I therefore have great pride in introducing

this Annual Report, which places our clients at the heart of all we do and showcases the tremendous efforts we continue to make to clarify our social purpose and grow a sustainable not for profit organisation dedicated to making active lives accessible.

I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to our clients, our members, the whole team at Sporting Wheelies, our volunteers and our wider supporters. We have worked together through a(nother) challenging year and delivered more services, to more clients with a better financial outcome than preceding years. Whilst there is still more to do, the whole teams can be rightly proud of our trajectory and the short and long term opportunities that we are now able to explore.



PROFESSOR ANNA LITTLEBOY CHAIR

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.

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 Paralympic 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

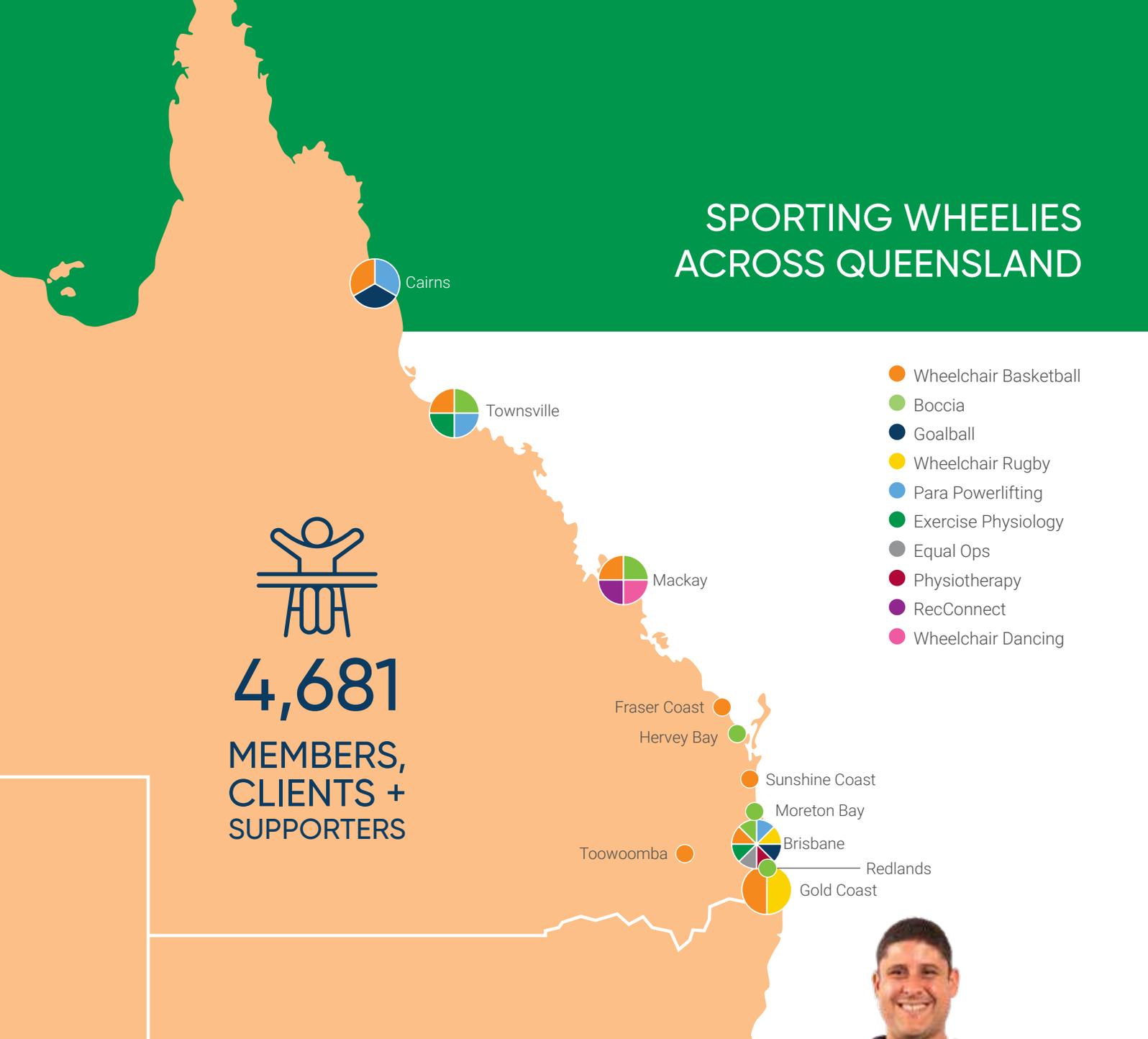
Every Queenslander with a disability will have opportunities to live a more active and healthy life.



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



4,681
MEMBERS,
CLIENTS +
SUPPORTERS

OUR IMPACT

"Since coming to Sporting Wheelies I've experienced many benefits to my physical health, but it's also made a massive impact on my mental health. It's really boosted my functional abilities. So, day to day activities such as transferring in and out of cars, are much easier thanks to the therapy at Sporting Wheelies."

JOHN CATANIA – GAME CHANGER



BRISBANE 2032 PARALYMPIC GAMES ANNOUNCEMENT

AND THE WINNER IS ... BRISBANE!

On 21 July 2021, Brisbane was announced as the host city for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

2032 offers exciting opportunities for our emerging athletes. With just ten years until the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games we're working hard to ensure that future Paralympians don't have to leave Queensland to access world class facilities. This is an exciting step forward for future Paralympians and it will help put Brisbane on the map as Australia's Paralympic Training Hub. Brisbane Lord Mayor, Adrian Schrinner as part of the International bid declared that Brisbane's high performance centre for para-sports was a key legacy project for the people of Brisbane.



Future Paralympian hopefuls – Mikhail Othman (left), Eithen Leard (centre) and Oliver Fanshawe (right).



Wheelchair Basketball players with Brisbane City Council Deputy Mayor, Krista Adams.

TOKYO 2020 (2021) PARALYMPIC GAMES

AUSTRALIAN TEAM

TOKYO PARALYMPICS
SPORTING WHEELIES ALUMNI

27
ATHLETES

20%
OF THE
AUSTRALIAN TEAM

In 2021, the Paralympics were held in Tokyo, after being delayed a year due to the worldwide impact of COVID.

The games were extremely successful for Sporting Wheelies athletes and our alumni. 27 Australian Paralympians had their athletic talent developed through Sporting Wheelies pathways. This meant that 20% of the Australian Paralympic Team have trained or have been supported by Sporting Wheelies in their development to becoming an elite athlete.

Sporting Wheelies athletes and alumni excelled throughout the games. If Sporting Wheelies was a country, we would have beaten New Zealand and Canada in the medal tally.

PARALYMPICS MEDAL TALLY

SPORTING WHEELIES ALUMNI



6



5



4

Chris Bond, Tokyo 2020 (2021) Paralympics.

Photographer, Megumi Masuda.



PARALYMPICS – TOKYO 2020 (2021) WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

The Australian Wheelchair Rugby team, the Steelers, had a difficult campaign in Tokyo.

The reigning Paralympic Gold medalists experienced tough competition but showed their strength and resilience even when the games were tough. Australia's nine-year reign as Paralympic champions ended when the Steelers finished fourth. The disrupted lead up to the games and the state lockdowns made it impossible to train as a team and impacted on preparations for the games. Sporting Wheelies athletes, Chris Bond and Michael Ozanne represented Australia. Michael made his debut for Australia.

Congratulations to Chris Bond who played his 200th game for Australia at the Tokyo Paralympics. Chris, who works for Sporting Wheelies as a Senior Sports Coordinator, competed in his third Paralympics.



Michael Ozanne.



Chris Bond.

World Wheelchair Rugby.

Photographer, Megumi Masuda.



PARALYMPICS – TOKYO 2020 (2021) GOALBALL

Tokyo was the most successful Paralympics ever for the women's Goalball team.

The Australian team, Aussie Belles had not won a match at the Paralympics for 25 years. Their first victory was over Canada 4-3. They then went on to score their biggest win in their history with a victory over the world champions representing Russian Paralympic Committee 4-1, to secure their spot in the quarter-finals. The Aussie Belles lost their quarter final match against Turkey, who went on to win their second consecutive gold medal.

Sporting Wheelies members Raissa Martin and Meica Horsburgh were selected to represent Australia in the national Goalball team. They practised extensively on the Paralympic grade Goalball court at Sporting Wheelies Albion in the lead up to the games. In June, the National Team came together for a training camp at Sporting Wheelies.



Sporting Wheelies' Raissa Martin selection to the Paralympic Team.



Raissa Martin and Meica Horsburgh training at Sporting Wheelies prior to the Paralympics.

PARALYMPICS – TOKYO 2020 (2021) WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL



In Tokyo, the Australian Men's Wheelchair Basketball team, The Rollers, improved on their previous result finishing fifth, up from their sixth-place finish at Rio in 2016.

Sporting Wheelies was represented in the national team with members Sam White, Matt McShane, Tom O'Neill-Thorne and Bill Latham earning Paralympic selection.

The Australian Women's team, The Gliders is in a rebuilding phase, finishing ninth, with some tough games throughout the Paralympics. It was the first Paralympics for the Australian team since finishing with a silver medal in London nine years ago.

It was a big achievement for the team to qualify for the Paralympics. The team will now work to build their campaign for Paris in 2024. Sporting Wheelies members Ella Sabljak, Hannah Dodd and Shelly Cronau represented Australia at the games.



PARALYMPICS – HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM (HPP)

Sporting Wheelies has a strong and successful history of supporting elite Queensland para-athletes to achieve their best performances in Paralympic and World Championship competition.



Throughout 2021, Sporting Wheelies continued to work in partnership with the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) to develop our athletes for international and Paralympic competition through our High Performance Program (HPP). The program supports athletes to prepare and participate as national and international representatives in Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Rugby and Goalball.

The focus this year was competing in the Tokyo 2020 (2021) Paralympics. Preparations were hampered with many COVID disruptions, state border restrictions and lockdowns as our athletes prepared for international competition. This was particularly difficult for team sports with athletes in different states, unable to train together prior to the Paralympics.

The HPP is built around eleven (11) key pillars including best coaching practices, quality daily training environments, meeting equipment needs, access to elite training venues, sports science servicing, strength and performance coaching, sports medicine services, athlete nutrition, athlete wellness, access to quality competitions and strong athlete development pathways.



Paralympian, Meica Horsburgh.

GREEN + GOLD DAY

Sporting Wheelies' community came together during the Paralympics to cheer on our teams.

Staff, athletes, gym members, Game Changers and our wider community came together to celebrate the 'Green and Gold'. We were joined by Stirling Hinchliffe, Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement, Chris Sarra, Director-General Department of Seniors and Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Trevor Evans, Federal Member for Brisbane, Tim Nichols, State Member for Clayfield and Cr David McLachlan, Local BCC Councillor.



Stirling Hinchliffe with Sporting Wheelies CEO, Amanda Mather.



Sporting Wheelies Game Changers enjoying Green and Gold Day.



Brisbane City Councillor David McLachlan with Sporting Wheelies Deputy Chair, Gary Linton.



Dr Chris Sarra meeting with Sporting Wheelies member, Jason.



Sporting Wheelies board Chair, Anna Littleboy with Nick Such.



Federal Member for Brisbane, Trevor Evans with Amanda Mather and Jacqueline Kelly.



Cheering the Australian Wheelchair Rugby Team, The Steelers.



BOCCIA



In September 2021, we hosted the Boccia Queensland State Championships, the Boccia Battle.

Interstate athletes were still impacted by travel restrictions. However, for those athletes that were able to attend it was great to see the joy of competition in our players. In December, we were able to continue the competitions with the Boccia Tri-series.





GOALBALL

The highlight of 2021 was hosting the national team training camp at our Albion courts prior to the Tokyo Paralympic Games.

This was a rare opportunity for the national team to train together, due to the impact of COVID and the state border controls limiting the ability for the athletes to compete together.

The installation of the new surface on the Albion courts gave our Paralympians and aspiring Paralympians the ideal surface to practice and develop their skills. This surface, is the same as that used at the Paralympics, allows our athletes to train on world class courts. Thanks to the Brisbane City Council for their grant for the court surface.

The annual competition, The Hells Bells, ran as a camp rather than a tournament due to the impact of COVID and border closures limiting the movement of interstate athletes.

The Goalball Youth Camp was hosted at Sporting Wheelies in November. Members across the state joined the camp. The focus of the camp was on improving Goalball skills, strength and conditioning, goal setting, athlete wellbeing and team building.







WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Sporting Wheelies ran nine local Wheelchair Basketball programs throughout the state in 2021.

These programs focused on grassroots participation and skill development. The competitions throughout the year were heavily impacted by the effects of COVID. The National Wheelchair Basketball League was cancelled after Round 3, due to border closures. At the time of cancellation, the Qld Spinning Bullets were 2nd on the ladder. No Women's National Wheelchair Basketball competition ran in 2021 due to COVID. The Kevin Coombs Cup (National Junior Championships) were cancelled due to border closures and a lack of available teams.

Qld State Wheelchair Basketball Championships (The Classics) ran over the May long weekend. Whilst interstate visitor numbers were down in 2021 due to COVID, we still managed the biggest attendance (over 140 athletes) in recent years. The Australia Gliders used the Classics as a final selection camp for the Tokyo Paralympics.

Our Northern Challenge Basketball competitions ran successfully in Mackay and Cairns, with Rockhampton crowned the 2021 champions. Highlight of the event was the return of the Townsville Cyclones to the competition. The Southern Challenge, round 1 ran successfully in Nov 2021 with five teams competing. Brisbane currently leads the competition heading into Round 2 held in 2022.







WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

Wheelchair Rugby National Championships come to Queensland

After over 10 years, the National Wheelchair Rugby Championships returned to Queensland. Hosted at the Gold Coast Sports Centre, the competition featured athletes from all around Australia. This event is the pinnacle of Wheelchair Rugby domestically, delivering a competition that showcases the sport. The competition provided the last opportunity for athletes to compete before the Tokyo Paralympic Games. The event was also significant in that it marked a landmark broadcast deal with the Kayo/Foxtel network.

Queensland played well to make the grand final. This was a state of origin style contest with New South Wales vs Queensland. Unfortunately, New South Wales was the better side on the day.





Wheelchair Rugby Bash

The Queensland Wheelchair Rugby Championships, also known as The BASH, is the premier state event for wheelchair rugby in the state. The BASH provides an important pathway for developing players, referees, coaches, managers, score bench officials and classifiers. COVID disruptions delayed this event until December and state lockdowns limited the participation to Queenslanders. Competing were the best wheelchair rugby players in the state, including our Tokyo Paralympians.





PARA-POWERLIFTING

SPORT + RECREATION

In May, Sporting Wheelies in collaboration with Paralympics Australia and Commonwealth Games Australia were pleased to host the Para-Powerlifting competition in Brisbane. The event was open to all Para-Powerlifting athletes, from novice through to elite. The program also paved the way for more athletes to obtain an International classification.





SPORT + RECREATION

WHEELCHAIR AFL

In 2021, Sporting Wheelies launched Wheelchair AFL to Queensland. Community days were organised to introduce the sport, in partnership with AFL Queensland. Feedback from the players was that they would like to play more games with the potential to introduce competition rounds in the future.





HEALTH + FITNESS

Having now settled into our new home in Albion and adjusting to 'COVID normal' we were able to meet our service demands and fully reengage with our clients face to face.

While telehealth services remained a good option for many people, we saw an increase in clients wanting to have the social opportunities that Sporting Wheelies provides, with our clients combining exercise, therapy and socialising over a post workout coffee. This inspired us to get creative with our service delivery and we trialled a group exercise class called Equal Op's. Interest was high, and intensity was even higher, and in no time this class became one of our most popular services, expanding from 1 to 2 sessions per week.

In Townsville we began part time Exercise Physiology services for the first time, with the long-term goal to be a full-time service. We also see this as an opportunity to work more closely with our Townsville athletes and build a sport, health and fitness community in the region.

With a goal to be more connected with athletes across our 5 sports, and to expand our allied health services, in January we welcomed a Physiotherapist to our team. This allows us to continue to expand our clients base and compliments our current service offering.



We treat 65 + different types of disabilities including:

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





LOCATIONS BRISBANE (ALBION) & TOWNSVILLE

*TELEHEALTH & HOME VISITS
FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN'T ACCESS
HEALTH & FITNESS LOCATIONS



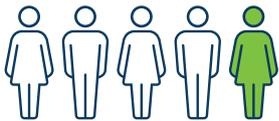
18,564 SESSIONS 75% GROWTH ON PREVIOUS YEAR

MORE STAFF & SERVICES & LESS IMPACT
ON SERVICE DELIVERY FROM COVID-19



90% CLIENT SATISFACTION

90% OF THOSE CLIENTS
SURVEYED ARE SATISFIED
OR VERY SATISFIED



25% GROWTH

IN NEW CLIENTS VS PREVIOUS YEAR



65+ DISABILITY TYPES

WE TREAT OVER 65 DIFFERENT
TYPES OF DISABILITIES

STUDENTS



24 STUDENTS FROM 8 UNIVERSITIES







HEALTH + FITNESS

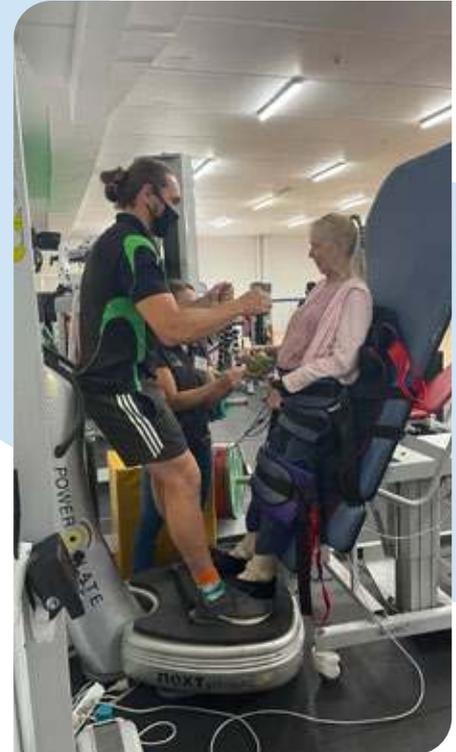
NEUROMOVES

In June 2021, Sporting Wheelies signed a two year agreement with Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA), enabling the Association to continue the delivery of the NeuroMoves program in Queensland.

The program aims 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

In 2021, Sporting Wheelies launched Australia's first functional group training program tailor-made for people living with disability, Equal Ops.

The new program seeks to provide Australians with disability an opportunity to experience a connected, community-focused and encouraging workout environment, no matter their ability.



HAVE FUN

GET FIT

GET SOCIAL!





EXPANDING ALLIED
HEALTH SERVICES
– PHYSIOTHERAPY



INCLUSIVE SPORT SCHOOL PROGRAM



To Raise the Bar on our community's perception of what is possible for people with a disability, Sporting Wheelies launched an *Inclusive Sport School Program* into Queensland Schools.

With 1 in 5 children living with disabilities, the program seeks to break down myths and misconceptions about disability and encourage all students to participate in inclusive para-sports such as Goalball, Boccia, Wheelchair Rugby and Wheelchair Basketball. The program is aligned with the Australian school curriculum to increase inclusivity and empower all students to reach their full potential.

The program is delivered in schools by our Game Changers, people who have a lived experience of disability and para-athletes. The Game Changers educate children about disability, Paralympic sports and show students it is possible for everybody to achieve and set active goals.

Through increasing understanding and championing the importance and benefits of physical activity, Sporting Wheelies works to increase the health of children of all abilities.



**OVER 1,700
CHILDREN**

HAVE PARTICIPATED IN
OUR SCHOOL SESSIONS



In 2021, Sporting Wheelies introduced Active Access Audits. These audits assess the accessibility of businesses, workplaces or retail locations.

Our Game Changers use their lived experience with disability, to test the accessibility of the site across all aspects of use from carpark to entry, circulation space, knowledge of staff, facilities and general display of stock and the business process.

While sites may be compliant with Australian Standards and regulatory codes, our Game Changers can provide more useful insight into the actual experience of a person with a disability. From vision impairment to high support needs, the Game Changers' lived experience with disability provide useful insights into how a business can better meet the needs of people with a disability.



“Overall I can’t tell you how much of a positive impact this had on my team. They shifted their perceptions of what people with disabilities are able to achieve. I had many of the team come and talk to me about how much they enjoyed the time they spent with the Game Changers.”

ELAINE JOBSON – CEO, JETTS AUSTRALIA

CORPORATE PARA-SPORTS EXPERIENCE

RAISING THE BAR



Sporting Wheelies launched Corporate Team Building Experiences, in 2021.

Designed to promote inclusive workplaces, the program breaks down myths and misconceptions about disability, diversity and inclusion. The team building sessions are designed to challenge workplace teams to experience what it is like to have a disability. The program gives participants the chance to learn some wheelchair skills and play para-sports. Interactive sessions lead by our para-athletes and Game Changers share inspiring stories of their journeys and resilience.



I CAN YOU CAN PROJECT

With the support of funding through the Australian Government, Sporting Wheelies is taking inclusive sport and exercise therapy to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, to engage with young people living with a disability, and provide resources and training to community members that support them.

Working in partnership with Artie Academy, we aim to strengthen connection to country and community and to support the development of local role models to raise expectations of what is possible for young Indigenous people with disability.

The project launched in November 2021, visiting schools in Logan. Over 200 children, and 100 community members participated in the *I Can You Can* program which is delivered by the Sporting Wheelies Game Changers.





Sporting Wheelies is committed to establishing the first clubhouses for inclusive sport in Australia by growing our footprint across Queensland where people with a disability can come together through the power of sport.

From regaining functional movement, establishing friendships to housing the aspirations of para-athletes, Sporting Wheelies provides a community network in our club to support people with a disability to lead an active life.

Our first Para-Sports Clubhouse at Albion provides a unique, accessible environment where people recovering from accident or illness or those born with a disability can gather, meet other people, talk, share stories, develop ideas, deepen friendships and inspire each other.

The Clubhouse creates a space where people with disability actually see what is possible by connecting with others who are sharing their journey and this assists them to establish new and extended goals that they may never have thought was possible.

Sporting Wheelies launched Social Sundays at the club in 2021 to provide an extra opportunity for our clients and athletes to come together in a fun, free event with live music and food. These gatherings have been enthusiastically welcomed by all who attend.



**"IF YOU CAN'T
SEE IT,
YOU CAN'T
BE IT!"**



DOVER STREET TURNS ONE!

OUR COMMUNITY



In September we celebrated the one-year anniversary of our Sports, Health and Fitness Clubhouse at Dover Street, Albion.

We celebrated with the inaugural Social Sunday session where clients, athletes, support workers, friends, family and staff came together.

The clubhouse at Dover Street brings together sports and rehabilitation therapy to focus on making active lives possible for people living with disability.



The importance of finding a like-minded community. By Samantha Dwyer.

I've always been surrounded by loving, supportive, able-bodied friends and family. Sometimes it takes them a while to understand my views, health problems, or why some of their questions are insensitive, but I was always OK with it. They were all I needed. That was, until I met a new community of people like me.

All over Australia, there are people with the same rare condition as me. Together, we've formed a community. Though I've met many people and made many friends in my life, there is a special connection between us that's different to everyone else. A connection based on shared understanding.

We can go out together and feel uninhibited. We're not fazed if one of us knocks over a drink because – let's be honest – we've all done that before! As my friend Dakota says, "nobody quite understands your struggles like those walking the same path."

I've also found community among my fellow gym-goers. We flex, grind and stretch at Sporting Wheelies – a gym created for people with disabilities. When I'm there, I feel like I fit in.

"Finding my community has meant that I can be my true self," says my fellow gym-goer Ella.

"Not only is the gym a place to do what I love but I'm also able to connect with people who understand what it's like to have disability."

Ella hit the nail on the head. Discovering two communities of people who have experience of disability, has given me a sense of understanding and acceptance on a whole different level to what I've known before. Somewhere I can unequivocally be – as Ella says – my 'true self'.

In no way do they replace the friends I already had, but they've helped me realise that I was missing something. People who intrinsically understand me. These friends don't ask insensitive questions, or need health problems explained to them. They understand my views without question and, perhaps most importantly, they know what I'm going through because they're going through it too.

To me, that's invaluable. And I'm so glad I found what I didn't know was missing.



Samantha and her friend, Ella.

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2021

OUR COMMUNITY

To celebrate Christmas and a huge year, together we gathered as a community to make new friends and have some fun.

Everyone was welcome – friends, family, children, support workers, pets, Sporting Wheelies members, clients, staff and non-members. One of our Game Changers, John Catania, did an excellent job as Santa handing out the raffle prizes.





MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



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



43.5 MILLION
TOTAL MEDIA REACH



130 NEWS STORIES
POSITIVE MEDIA COVERAGE

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

f FACEBOOK
↑ **225.6%**
REACH 67,758

@ INSTAGRAM
↑ **1,600%**
REACH 33,385

ENGAGING WITH GOVERNMENT

Sporting Wheelies is developing meaningful relationships with Government to advocate for more opportunities for people with a disability to live an active and healthy life.

Strategic relationships have been formed with key decision makers at all levels of Government.



Brisbane Lord Mayor, Adrian Schrinner with Brisbane City Councillor David McLachlan, Sporting Wheelies CEO Amanda Mather, and Sean, Oliver and Mikhail from the Queensland Junior Goalball team.



Stirling Hinchliffe and Joe Kelly MP playing Wheelchair Basketball at Parliament House.



Stirling Hinchliffe, Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement meeting Sporting Wheelies Member, Billy.



Brisbane Lord Mayor, Adrian Schrinner.



State Member for Clayfield, Tim Nicholls MP, and Federal Member for Brisbane, Trevor Evans meeting our members Luke and Jason.

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.



66%
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ROLES



49%
OF OUR EMPLOYEES ARE MALE



51%
OF OUR EMPLOYEES ARE FEMALE



45%
OF OUR EMPLOYEES HAVE A DISABILITY



Eyeball App

Sporting Wheelies has launched 'Eyeball App' for all incident reporting across the organisation including staff, members, clients and volunteers. The health and safety of all staff, members, clients and volunteers is of paramount importance so a key value of having the app is the ability for staff members to be able to access it remotely and report incidents that occur off site.

Changes in workforce numbers

Total workforce increased by 26%, mainly due to employing Game Changers to deliver the Raising the Bar Program.

OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP US
DELIVER OUR HEALTH, SPORT AND RECREATION PROGRAMS.



OUR GAME CHANGERS

Sporting Wheelies employs more than 35 people as Game Changers.

Named due to their ability to change the game for people living with a disability, they go into the community rolling out inclusive sports into schools, delivering corporate experiences and advocating for change.



Staff Survey of Game Changers



95.5%

agreed that Sporting Wheelies work positively impacts people's lives



86.4%

agree that their knowledge and skills have improved since becoming a Game Changer



86.3%

believe that they have a say on issues that are important to them



SPORTING WHEELIES
& DISABLED ASSOCIATION

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PROFESSOR ANNA LITTLEBOY
CHAIR

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 been the architect of several multi-million partnerships operating at the interface between the minerals industry, society and public policy. She has operated on many Boards and Advisory Committees in the innovation sector and worked to establish governance structures for start up ventures.

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.

David Shillington resigned from the board in July, 2021.



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.



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.



ELAINE JOBSON

Elaine has spent 23 years in executive positions working for a number of fitness industry brands. She has teamed up with well-known industry entrepreneurs including Mike Balfour OBE – founder of Fitness First, Sir Richard Branson owner of Virgin Active South Africa and now Brendon Levenson founder of Jetts Fitness. Having previously won the Deloitte Best Company to work for in South Africa, Elaine is passionate about building successful companies through great cultures and growing exceptional leaders.



MICHAEL JOHNSON

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.

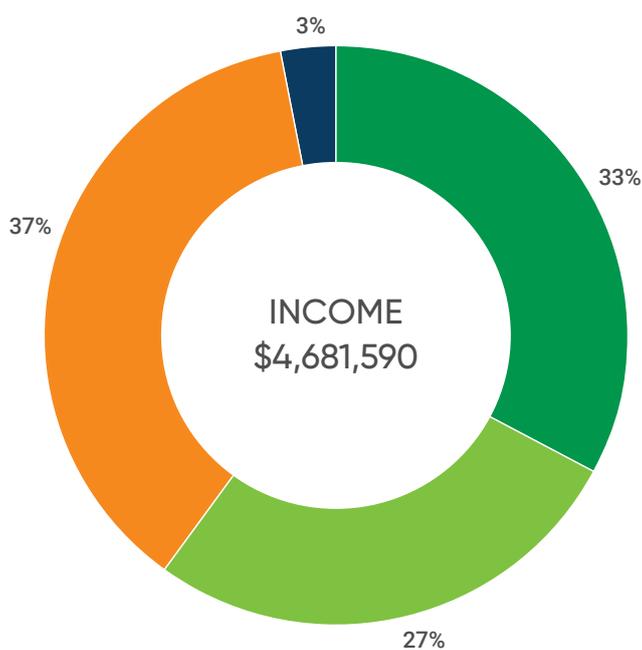


The Executive Management team working closely with the board.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

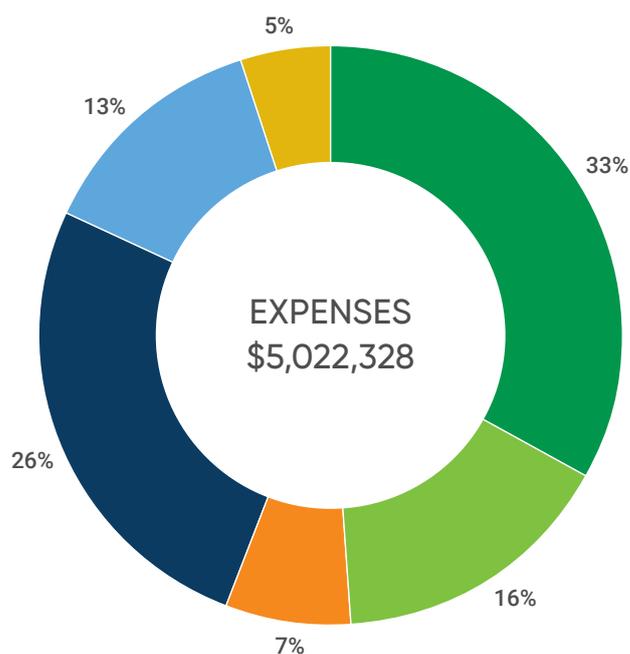
1 FEB 2021 – 31 JAN 2022

WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM



Art Union Revenue	33%
Service Delivery	27%
Grants & Donations	37%
Government Subsidies & Other Income	3%

HOW WE SPEND OUR FUNDING



Sport & Recreation	16%
High Performance Program	7%
Health & Fitness	26%
Raising the Bar	13%
Art Union	33%
Fundraising	5%

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

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



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

