



Australian Society of
Anaesthetists[®]

2023

Australian Society of Anaesthetists

Annual Report



SUPPORTING, REPRESENTING AND EDUCATING

President's Report



Dr Mark Sinclair
MBBS (Adel), GAICD, FANZCA

Vision

Practitioners functioning at their best in delivery of anaesthesia and perioperative care.

Mission

Support, represent and educate our members in the provision of high-quality healthcare that ensures patient safety in anaesthesia, peri-operative and pain medicine.

As we reflect upon the accomplishments of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) in the past year, I am honoured to present the President's Report for 2023.

In our pursuit of excellence, we have set the overarching theme for the ASA to become an Exemplar Society. This ambitious vision has steered our actions and decisions throughout the year, guiding us to scrutinise and elevate every facet of our organisation.

A comprehensive review of our operations, IT platform, and staffing structure was undertaken, with a dedicated focus on enhancing effectiveness. Through strategic adjustments, we aim to fortify the foundations of the ASA, ensuring that we are well-equipped to meet the evolving challenges in the field of anaesthesia.

In the spirit of innovation and progress, we launched our Towards 90 campaign for 2024. This initiative serves as a beacon for our collective journey, fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange within our community.

In celebration of our rich, 90-year heritage, in 2023 we unveiled a replica commemorative ASA plaque at Hadley's Hotel, Hobart. This gesture pays homage to the origins of the ASA, symbolising our deep-rooted history and the path that has led us to where we stand today.

As we navigate the dynamic landscape of anaesthesia, we remain committed to building on the strengths that define the ASA. It is through the collective efforts of our dedicated membership that we continue to evolve, adapt, and excel.

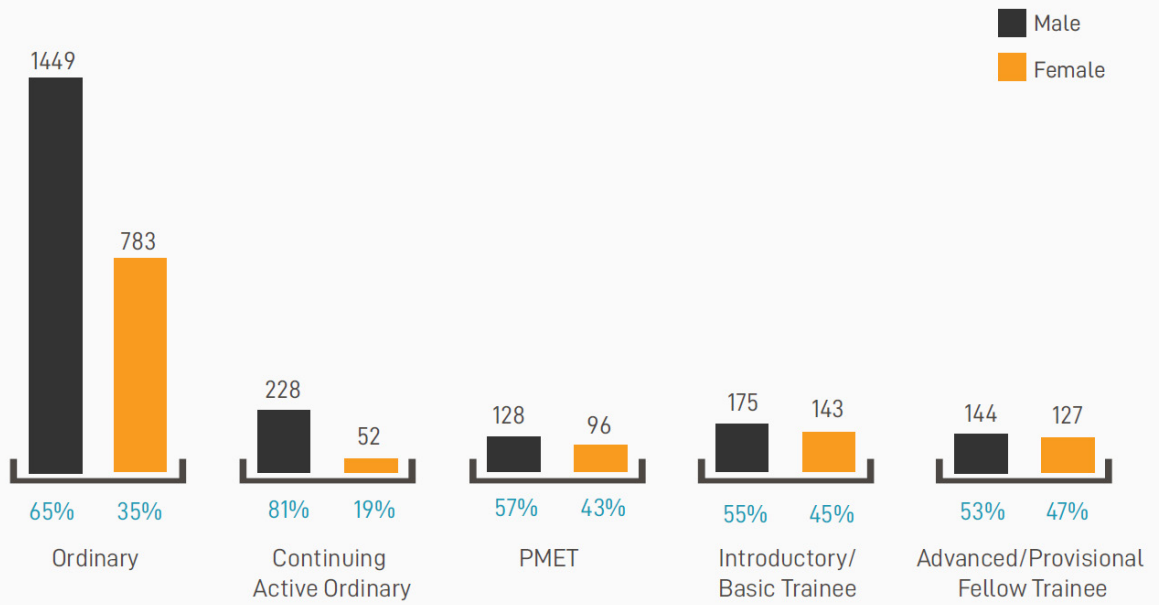


Support

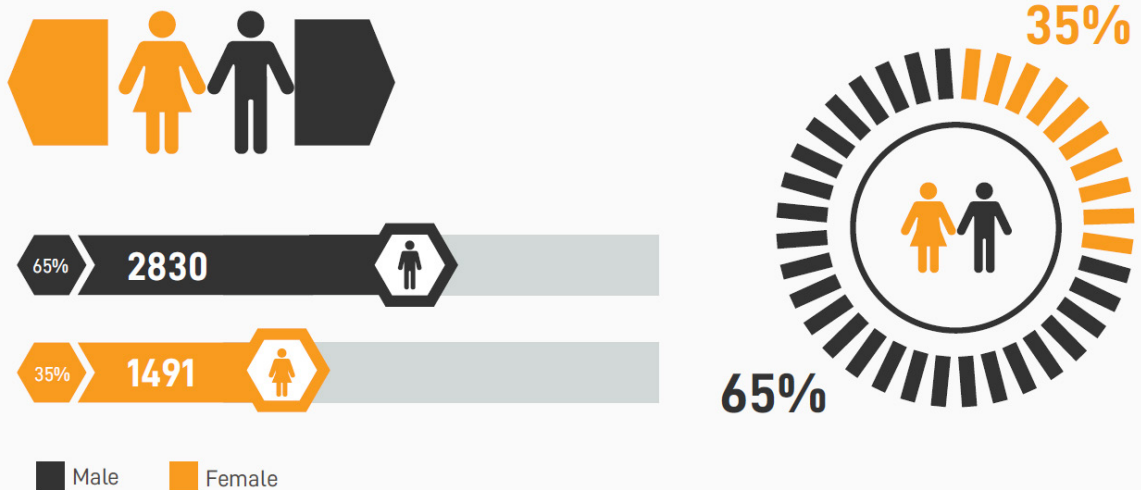
Membership

Membership remains strong despite a 6% decline in overall membership, caused by the changing of renewal business rules which resulted in both 2022 and 2023 lapsed members being reported in the same financial year.

ASA MEMBERSHIP BY MAJOR CATEGORY 2023



ASA MEMBERSHIP BY NUMBER (Includes Trainees)



Science Prizes and Research

The ASA continues to award research grants, awards, and prizes to members who are currently engaged in research related to anaesthesia, intensive care, or pain management. The goal is to improve patient outcomes through financial support of research activities conducted and led by ASA members in Australia. This initiative is overseen by the Chair of the Science Prizes Awards and Research Grants Committee (SPARC), Associate Professor Alwin Chuan. Grants range from small grants of \$3,000 to annual research and scholarship grants of \$75,000.

Volunteer Committees

The ASA continues to support a range of volunteer committees working alongside the ASA to support, represent and educate Australia's anaesthetists. These committees include:

- Economic Advisory Committee
- Professional Issues Advisory Committee
- Public Practice Advisory Committee
- Editorial Board of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care
- Overseas Development and Education Committee
- Trainee Members Group Committee
- National Scientific Congress Committees
- Communications Committee
- Retired Anaesthetists Group
- The History of Anaesthesia Library, Museum and Archives Committee
- ASA State Committees of Management
- Wellbeing Advocates Committee

We extend our gratitude to our members who have generously devoted their time and expertise to our committees, serving as a crucial foundation for the ongoing success of the ASA.



Represent

Advocacy

As the ASA approaches its milestone of 90 years, our Board, Council and staff continue to work towards, plan, and advocate for critical issues across the spectrum of public, private, and locum sectors. These issues encompass workforce, awards, standards, and the overarching enhancement of medical practice quality and safety.

The Chairs of the ASA's Professional Issues Advisory Committee (PIAC), Public Practice Advisory Committee (PPAC) and Economic Advisory Committee (EAC) presented on all things ASA at the 2023 National Scientific Congress, providing updates on the issues that ASA members have been contacting them about and discussing how the ASA has been advocating on behalf of members this year. A recording of this presentation is available in the ASAEEd Learning Resources Library. Click [here](#) and login using your ASA member ID and password to access the library.

Workforce Survey

The ASA engaged HealthConsult, a leading health economics consultancy, to assist in developing a workforce projections model for the anaesthesia profession for the next ten years. To support this workforce analysis, we collected data across 2023 directly from Australian anaesthetists on the working conditions, service models and work practices of anaesthetists nationally. The results of this survey will provide critical context about the anaesthesia workforce and its position in the Australian healthcare system.

Climate and Health

The ASA is committed to reducing the environmental impact of anaesthesia and has endorsed an initiative by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care to work with key professional representative bodies to assess the use of desflurane and medical nitrous oxide. The ASA will be working with the Department in 2024 on the issue, whilst maintaining that all decisions must involve expert clinicians' input.

Support in the Public Sector

The ASA has been supporting the advocacy of its members at the Children's Hospital Westmead to ensure that there is sustainability of staffing and the ability to continue to provide excellent care for children, including many complex cases, as required by the community. Stories have been covered by the [Australian](#) and the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) that have highlighted the difficulties our members and intensivists face in coping with work demands and an unresponsive industrial relations system. This story will continue to unfold but demonstrates our continuing commitment to support and represent our members. Our work has also included the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation (ASMOF), the Australian Medical Association NSW (AMANSW) and the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS).



Educate

CPD Home

This year, the ASA invested in the Australian Medical Association's CPD Home, Doctorportal Learning Pty Ltd (DPL), the sole accredited non-college CPD provider for doctors. The ASA has long served the CPD needs of anaesthetists who aren't ANZCA Fellows and will continue to do so under the new 2024 CPD regulations. We have also become an accredited Clinical Learning provider, guiding DPL in supporting anaesthetists. Our Chief Executive Officer, Dr Matthew Fisher, sits as a director on the DPL Board and our Vice President, Dr Vida Viliunas OAM has joined the DPL CPD Advisory Panel. We respect ANZCA's CPD offerings and believe DPL complements them, providing a choice for those who've relied on the ASA for CPD. You can learn more at cpdhome.org.au.

Events

Across the last year we held 19 member events and 34 trainee events, hosting 3396 delegates. We also hosted the 2023 National Scientific Congress in Melbourne from 4 – 8 October 2023. Thank you to our members who have volunteered their valuable time and expertise to make these events possible.

ASAEd

The ASA Ed resources library, coordinated by Education and Events Manager, Rhian Foster, and our Vice President, Dr Vida Viliunas OAM, continues to provide valuable educational content to our members. There was an increase in use of educational resources including a 30% increase in podcast listens, and a 31% increase in video streams.

Publications

The ASA continues to educate and contribute to research through a body of publications including members' magazine Australian Anaesthetist (AA) and peer reviewed journal Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (A&IC). Many thanks to our magazine Medical Editor, Dr Sharon Tivey and the journal's Editor-in-Chief, Associate Professor John Loadsman for their tireless work throughout the year.

With our publications we continue to provide a strong local venue for publication, greater international exposure through the large subscription base of Publishing Partner, SAGE (Circulation of A&IC now >19,202 per month - article downloads now >500,000/year), improved financial returns to through Publishing Partnership Represent, wider recognition of A&IC's role leading major international actions on academic integrity and the maintenance of a high standard of published articles (exceeding 1000 submissions per year).

Patient Education

The ASA undertook the initiative to refresh its Patient Information Pamphlets this year, enhancing accuracy and improving patient comfort and education.

Additionally, the ASA successfully secured a grant to develop and translate patient pain medicine discharge plans into Arabic, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

The ASA also continues to sustain and bolster existing initiatives, such as the widely utilised Anaesthesia and You brochure, Pre-Anaesthesia Assessment charts, medical warning cards, and the ASA Jobs Vacant/Locum board. These resources are instrumental in helping anaesthetists support their patients across Australia.

Chief Executive Officer's Report



Dr Matthew Fisher
PhD DHLthSt (honoris causa)

Being appointed the CEO of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists in May 2022 was a great privilege and opportunity to build on the platform of the past. A lot is said about the 'first 100 days' for a new CEO and during this time, I was encouraged and supported by the Board to understand the specialty whilst being provided a platform for evolution.

Curiosity, engagement, and reflection become part of this time through a simple framework of 'stop, start, continue', whilst working with the Board to determine where it wants to lead the ASA and membership to, and if the structure will enable that. Importantly understanding what is the culture of the ASA and is it reflective of the role the members have in Society; what is the internal culture of the organisation; do the staff share the same values and culture plus do they understand the shoes the member walks in; is the operational platform fit for purpose; do we have the right people with the rights skills and attitude; what is the operational environment of the ASA and how expansive is our sphere of influence.

During the reporting period, we set the goal of becoming an exemplar society and what is required to achieve that at all levels of the ASA. Working with the Board, Council, and staff on what this means has been important.

What has changed?

- We have embarked on an IT platform change to move off the 'smouldering platform' we had before it self-combusts and this will be operational in early 2024.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

- We changed investment managers due to publicly ventilated issues with our previous group.
- Brought in new capability in policy, public affairs and health economics plus restructured communications, events, and membership engagement to better serve our directions.
- Engaged the Civic Partnership to assist our capability in public affairs and representation.
- Became more active in engaging with our public sector members.
- Set an overarching theme of Towards 90 not only to celebrate the ASA but to underpin its representation for Beyond 90
- Commissioned work to own our own data about the specialty and its role, contribution and future underpinned by 'if you are considering procedural care then anaesthetists should be a forethought, not an afterthought'.
- Convened successful conferences and built greater capacity in our events team.

There are many other changes that will assist the ASA into the future and in the end, we had a successful year on many levels – capacity and capability building, member engagement, people focus, public affairs systems, our communications and financial result.

I thank the Board and in particular, Dr Andrew Miller and Dr Suzi Nou for supporting my integration into the ASA; the Council members in particular our committee chairs; individual members who have contributed; and the staff who are on our journey (with a special mention to Sue Donovan who has provided great insights and reflections).

Summary Financial Statements 2022/2023

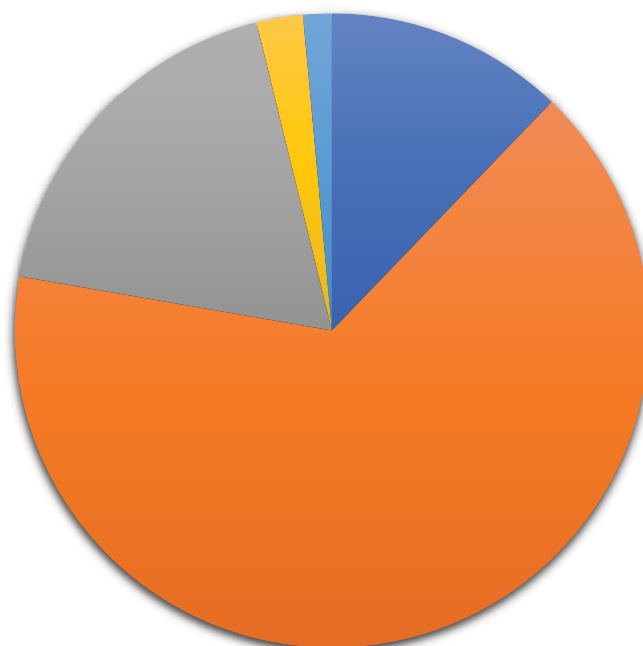
	2023 \$ 000's	2022 \$ 000's
Statement of financial position		
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,333	4,775
Receivables	621	751
Other financial assets	25,461	21,774
Other current assets	450	457
	30,865	27,757
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	7,133	7,270
Other non-current assets	46	46
	7,179	7,316
Total Assets	38,044	35,073
LESS LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	2,934	2,402
Employee benefits	196	171
	3,130	2,573
Non-current Liabilities		
Employee benefits	9	4
Other non-current liabilities	-	-
	9	4
Total Liabilities	3,139	2,577
Net assets	34,905	32,496
Accumulated Funds		
Retained surplus	34,905	32,496
Total Accumulated Funds	34,905	32,496
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income		
Revenue		
Revenue from operating activities	5,702	4,723
Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment		
Total Revenue	5,702	4,723
Less Expenses		
Awards	127	77
Computer expenses	253	259
Committees and Conferences	950	698
Cost of sales	211	224
Depreciation expense	155	153

Employee expenses	2,030	1,866
Honoraria	598	605
Legal and other professional fees	391	82
Overseas development and education expenses	100	120
Property costs	75	63
Travel and committee meetings	341	118
Other expenses	257	746
Total Expenses	5,488	5,011
Surplus from Operating Activities	214	(288)
Net finance income	2,195	(2,105)
Total Surplus	2,409	(2,393)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	2,409	(2,393)

Full copies of the Financial Statements including Director's report and Declarations and Auditors' Report may be obtained from the CEO, Australian Society of Anaesthetists Limited, 86 Chandos Street, Naremburn, NSW 2065

Dashboard Annual Report

Assets

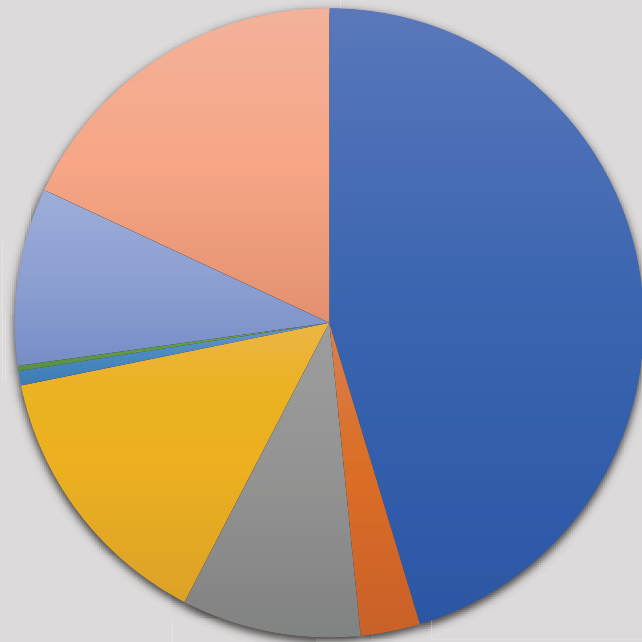


■ Cash and Term Deposits 12%
 ■ Other Financial Assets 66%

■ Properties 19%
 ■ Debtors 2%

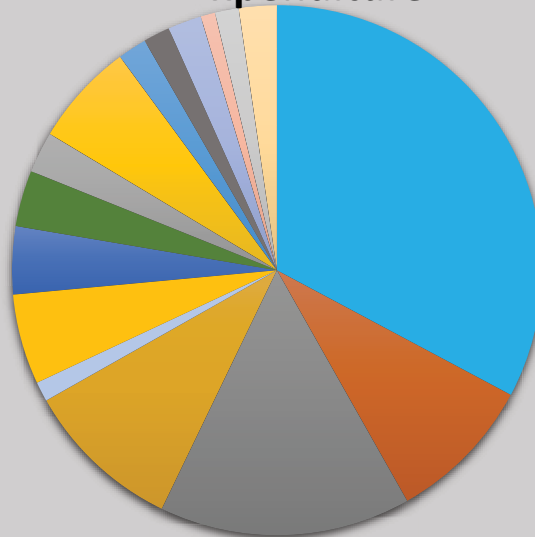
■ Other Assets 1%

Income Sources



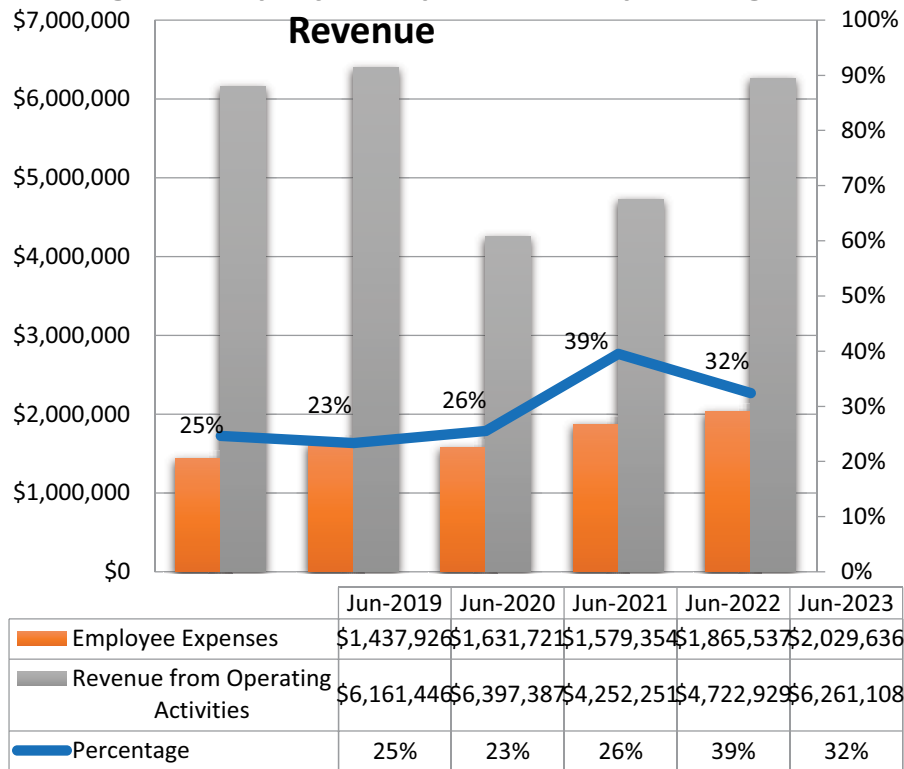
■ Membership 45%	■ AIC 3%
■ NSC 9%	■ SIGs & CMEs events 14%
■ Advertising 1%	■ Other <1%
■ Investment Income 9%	■ Net F.V Gain 18%

Expenditure



■ Salaries 33%
■ NSC 9%
■ SIGs & CMEs events 15%
■ Honoraria 10%
■ Property 1%
■ Travel 6%
■ Other 4%
■ AIC Journal 3%
■ Depreciation 3%

Percentage of Employee Expenses to Operating Revenue



ASA Benevolent Trust Fund Report

Opening balance 1 July 2022	\$86,180
Less: Outgoings (bank charges)	\$0
Payments	\$0
Add: Donations	\$4,262
Interest	\$2,522
Closing balance 30 June 2023	\$92,964

The ASA Benevolent Trust Fund was established in 2001 to assist Australian anaesthetists, their families and dependants who are in dire necessitous circumstances. The Trust Fund is maintained exclusively from members' donations and interest on the balance of the fund. In the 2022/23 financial year, the Trust Fund received \$4,262 in donations. The ASA would like to thank all those who generously contributed to this worthy cause.