



Australian Society of
Anaesthetists[®]

2024

Australian Society of Anaesthetists

Annual Report



SUPPORTING, REPRESENTING AND EDUCATING

President's Report



Dr Mark Sinclair
MBBS (Adel), GAICD, FANZCA

Vision

The Objectives of the Company remain 'To promote and protect the status, independence and interests of Australian anaesthetists and their patients'.

Mission

Support, members and advance their skills while advocating for the anaesthesia specialty to ensure safe and high quality patient care for the Australian public.

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 2024.

In February of this year, the ASA held a Strategy Day to review key activities and priorities. It was an incredibly productive session, of which our mission was revisited and refreshed to align with our evolving objectives.

We have set the overarching theme for the ASA to become an Exemplar Society and reviewed what needs to evolve to achieve this. We reviewed operations, launched a new CRM and reviewed staffing to be more effective. We celebrated our 90th birthday in Canberra with a variety of invited guests including medical organisations, politicians and senior health executives. Our 90th birthday was celebrated nationwide as each State Committee held an event to celebrate. We hosted the Common Issues Group Meeting in Singapore. We increased our advocacy footprint and continued to build on the strengths of the ASA.

Chief Executive Officer's Report



Dr Matthew Fisher
PhD DHLthSt (honoris causa)

At the AGM in 2023, we stated that we had set the overarching theme to be an Exemplar Society and during the subsequent year, we focused on our platform for the future from an infrastructure and capability perspective. This was done whilst we rightly celebrated our 90th Birthday in Canberra which had broad attendance from the specialty and other medical organisations, politicians and senior health executives. This celebration enabled a focal event for our activities in building an improved representation and advocacy capability. In reviewing some of the achievements in no particular order, from a finance perspective, we reviewed and moved our investment portfolio to Morgan Stanley for future growth and appointed Nexia Australia as our auditors. Our investment in and delivery of a new association management system “front end” including website was a significant project that has delivered a leading-edge platform to take us into the future. We are currently planning for the implementation of a new accounting and audit system “backend” to conclude the project in FY 24/25. As a future option for and to support members into the future, the ASA became a shareholder in CPDHome and has been populating content for anaesthetists to make it easy to fulfil the revised registration standard.

Our advocacy and representation continued to be a priority which included convening the inaugural Australian Forum for Independent Medicine, contributing to various submissions including the National Climate & Health strategy and building our political and policy relationships both federally and jurisdictionally. Our investment in commissioning an independent report into the supply of and demand for Anaesthetists projecting to 2032 was a significant step that came to fruition in our 90th year.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Internationally, the ASA was influential within the Common Issues Group comprising the USA, UK, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa with an improved agreement between the Societies in these countries. Additionally, our attendance at WFSA 2024 as one of the founding members, was well received and the efforts of individuals and ODEC, recognized. Our NSC23 in Melbourne was convened in a new format and was successful which also triggered a review of how to embed a sustainable system that differentiates the engagement and experience offered by the ASA. Finally, in 2024, we refreshed our Strategic Directions to guide the operations of the ASA to at least 2027 yet be responsive to change and emerging priorities. This affirmed our Vision for the Specialty to remain, "Anaesthetists practising optimally on behalf of patients, their safety and the health system" whilst we strive to be "An exemplary society of anaesthetists advocating for the specialty, patients, patient safety and an accessible, equitable health system" to ensure that we "support members and advance their skills while advocating for the anaesthesia specialty to ensure safe and high-quality patient care for the Australian public". To achieve this, we will: Represent the anaesthesia specialty to stakeholders; Advocate for patient and community access, equity, and patient education; Engage with anaesthetists and provide member services; Provide professional development activities and resources; Support the welfare and wellbeing of members; and Ensure good governance and management.

Thankyou for your support and I hope your engagement with, and experience of the ASA continues to be evolving to exemplary.



Support

Membership

Membership remains strong ending the year with 4,300 members, reflecting a 3% increase compared to the preceding year.

Main Join Reason for New Members



Education and CPD



The Relative Value Guide



Events

Main Join Reason for Ordinary Members



The Relative Value Guide



Advocacy and Lobbying



Education and CPD

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



Represent

Advocacy

EAC, PIAC, PPAC and ASA Policy staff continue to represent the ASA and its members engaging with the professional and economic issues that concern practicing anaesthetists.

CEO Dr Matt Fisher has met with the Federal Minister of Health and multiple meetings with Department of Health Advocacy across MBS indexation, anaesthesia workforce issues (workforce survey) and DVA issues. The Board engaged the Civic Partnership to increase advocacy and enhance the profession and has met with Federal, State and Territory ministers. We have increased influence on behalf of the public sector.

Workforce Survey

In 2023 the ASA commissioned a report by HealthConsult to explore the current state of the anaesthetist workforce in Australia and develop a workforce planning model up to 2032. The report was provided to us in early 2024 and we launched it at the Roundtable event hosted by the ASA at Parliament House in Canberra in mid-August.

Key findings

- Demand for anaesthetic services is expected to increase by 35.7% between 2017 and 2032.
- The anaesthetist workforce in Australia is predicted to increase only 31.8% in this time, from 4,594 to 6,055 anaesthetists.
- In 2027 there is estimated to be a 4 per cent shortfall gap between the forecast and required workforce.
- By 2032, the forecast workforce shortfall is expected to reach a 5.7 per cent.
- One fifth of anaesthetists are expected to retire within five years (National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS)).
- Anaesthetists' working hours are unlikely to match workload into the future.



Educate

CPD Home

The ASA became a shareholder in the Australian Medical Association's CPD Home and has been populating content for anaesthetists to make it easy to fulfil the revised registration standard. There are more than 40 podcasts and recordings to explore for supporting CPD.

Events

Across the last year we held 16 member events and 36 trainee events, hosting 3477 delegates. We also hosted the 2024 National Scientific Congress in Darwin from 6 – 9 September 2024. 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 are 200+ member resources including podcasts, a video library, trainee exam resources, wellness education and webAIRS articles.

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), circulated to over 4,000 anaesthetists across Australia. 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.

Patient Education

New patient brochures for members to download has been launched on the website for patient comfort and education. There have been over 371 new downloads.

The ASA also continues to sustain 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.

Summary Financial Statements 2023/2024

Statement of financial position

	2024 \$ 000's	2023 \$ 000's
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,223	4,328
Trade and other receivables	845	621
Other financial assets	26,609	25,466
Other current assets	404	450
Total current assets	30,081	30,865
Non-current assets		
Investments accounted for at cost	1,250	-
Property, plant and equipment	7,609	7,133
Other non-current assets	46	46
Total non-current assets	8,905	7,179
Total assets	38,986	38,044
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	696	453
Contract liabilities	3,017	2,481
Employee benefits	253	196
Total current liabilities	3,966	3,130
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefits	7	9
Total non-current liabilities	7	9
Total liabilities	3,973	3,139
Net assets	35,013	34,905
Equity		
Retained surpluses	35,013	34,905
Total equity	35,013	34,905

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

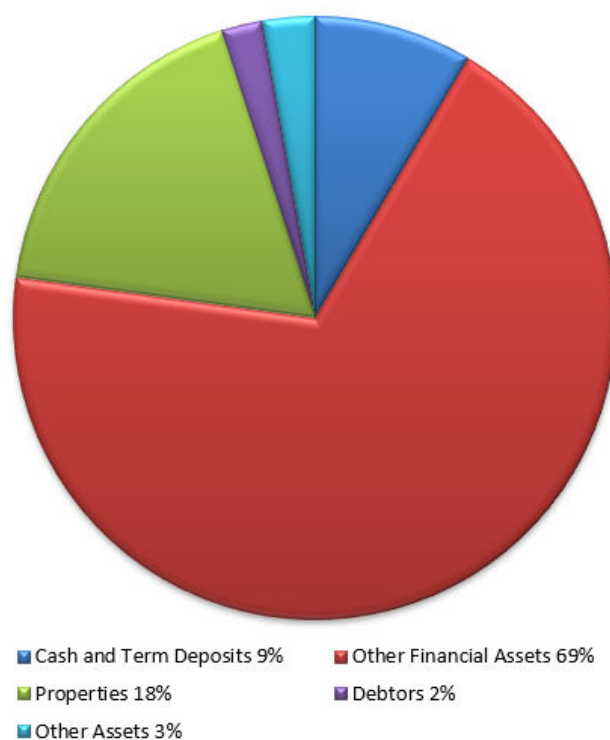
	2024 \$ 000's	2023 \$ 000's
Revenue	6,307	5,702
Expenses		
Awards	166	141
Computer expenses	450	253
Committees and conferences	1,776	950
Cost of sales	195	211
Depreciation expense	246	155

Employee expenses	2,410	2,030
Honoraria	620	598
Legal and other professional fees	553	391
Overseas development and education expenses	157	100
Property costs	86	75
Travel and committee meetings	655	341
Other expenses	389	245
Total expenses	7,704	5,488
Operating (deficit)/surplus	(1,396)	214
Net finance income	1,505	2,195
Surplus before income tax expense	109	2,409
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus after income tax expense	109	2,409
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income	109	2,409

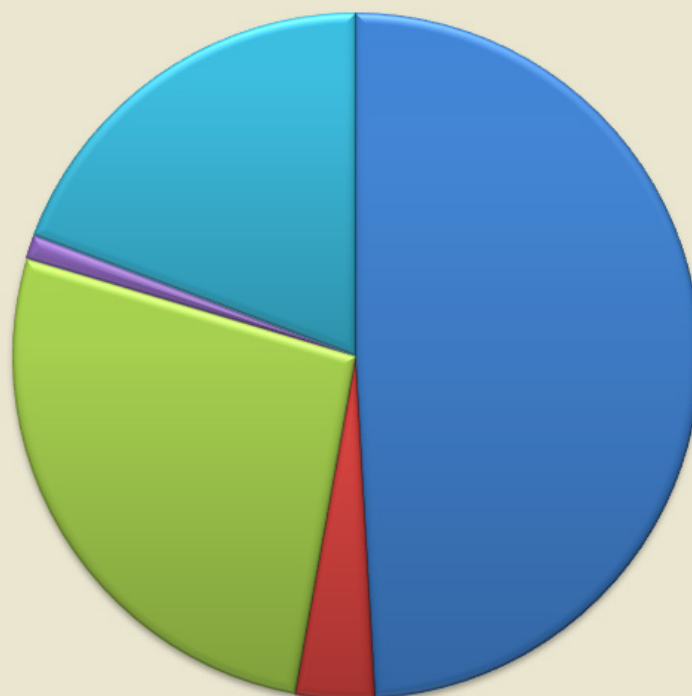
Full copies of the Financial Statements including Director's report and Declarations and Auditors' Report may be obtained from the CEO, Australian Society of Anaesthetists.

Dashboard Annual Report

Assets

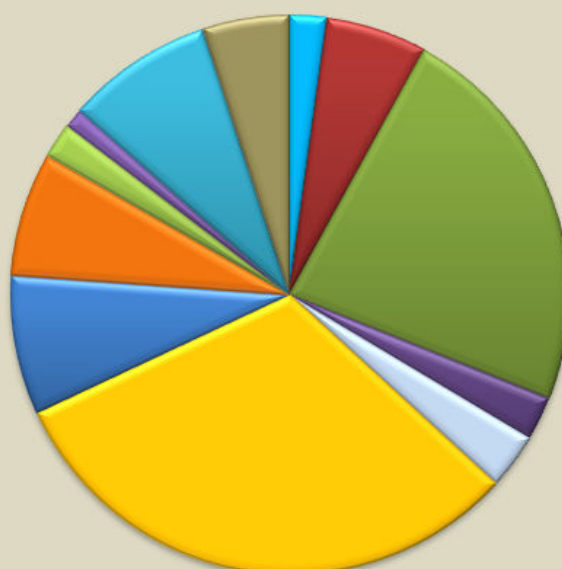


Income



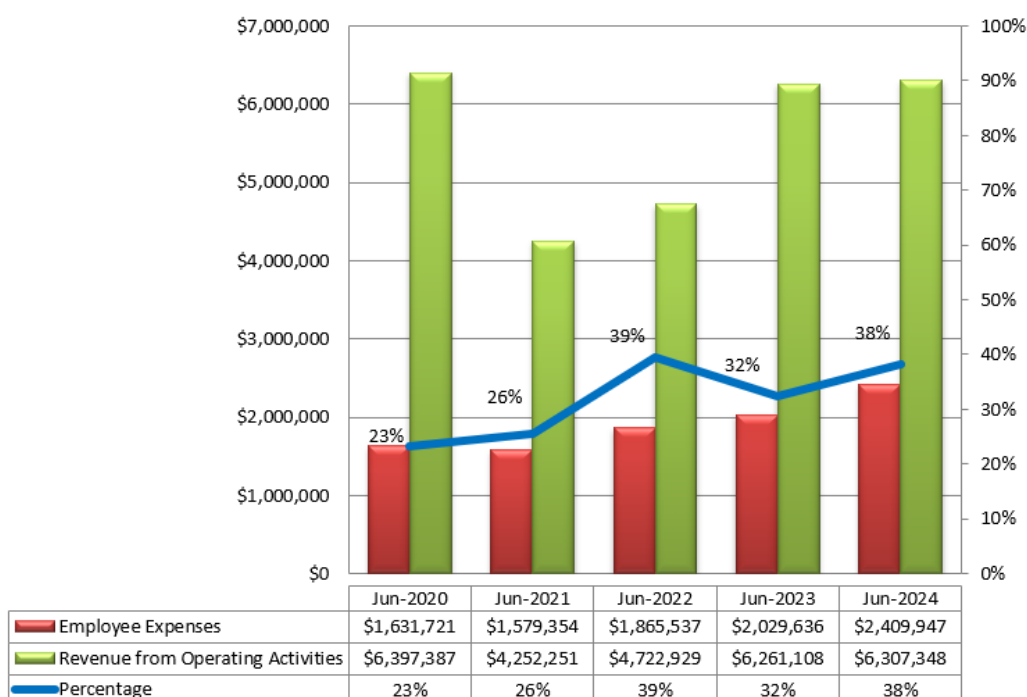
■ Membership income 49%
 ■ Investment Income 19%
 ■ Income from conferences 27%
 ■ Journal income 4%
 ■ Other income 1%

Expenditure



■ Awards 2%
 ■ Committees and conferences 23%
 ■ Depreciation expenses 3%
 ■ Honoraria 8%
 ■ ODEC 2%
 ■ Travel and committee meetings 8%
 ■ Computer expenses 6%
 ■ Cost of sales 3%
 ■ Employee expenses 31%
 ■ Legal & other professional expenses 7%
 ■ Property costs 1%
 ■ Other expenses 5%

Percentage of Employee Expenses to Operating Revenue



ASA Benevolent Trust Fund Report

Opening balance 1 July 2023	\$92,964
Less: Outgoings (bank charges)	\$0
Payments	\$0
Add: Donations	\$3,862
Interest	\$3,880
Closing balance 30 June 2024	\$100,705

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 2023/24 financial year, the Trust Fund received \$3,862 in donations. The ASA would like to thank all those who generously contributed to this worthy cause.