ANNUAL REPORT

A society without barriers for people with a spinal cord injury
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Spinal Cord Injuries Australia exists purely to assist people with a spinal cord injury to get ‘back on track’. We do not force people to fit into a pre-defined service model; the first question we always ask our clients, in any of our services, is “What are your goals, what do you want to achieve?”

The programs and services we offer can be seen as building blocks to help achieve these goals. Our clients have their own life plans, we’re there simply to provide the building blocks to help them along the way.

The building blocks available are many and diverse, as are the individuals that use them. They include peer support, accommodation, employment, rehabilitation and respite, and our clients can be assured that whether it’s only one building block being used, or several, the result will be strong and complete.

Our clients can use as many or as few of the building blocks as they require. We encourage them to pick and choose those that are relevant along the way. Spinal Cord Injuries Australia’s building blocks are available whenever needed, at any stage of an individual’s life journey.
Who we are

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) is a not-for-profit organisation that provides information, advocacy and resources for people with a spinal cord injury at every stage of their life journey.

History

SCIA was established in 1967 by a group of young men who wanted to change the world. They were advised that the spinal injuries unit of the Prince Henry Hospital Sydney, their home for over six years, was to close and as beds at the newly established spinal injuries unit at Prince of Wales Hospital were needed for newly injured people, they would be transferred to a geriatric nursing home.

They were desperate to find an alternative and with a strong spirit of determination and the help of friends and others, they set about forming their own organisation. On 4th September 1967 the Australian Quadriplegic Association (AQA) was constituted in the spinal unit of Prince Henry Hospital, becoming a registered charity in November of that year.

The association’s major objectives were accommodation, care and the need to promote unity between people with quadriplegia, provide recreational activities and raise sufficient funds to enable the building of accommodation and employment facilities.

In November 1974 AQA became incorporated under the Companies Act, maintaining a unique clause in its constitution to ensure that it would remain in the control of people with disabilities. The Association strongly believed that people with disabilities best understood their own requirements and even today, Spinal Cord Injuries Australia is one of the few charities in Australia which requires that a majority of its Board of Directors be people with disabilities.

On 1st July 2003, AQA members voted to change its name to Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) with the intention of increasing public awareness of all types of spinal cord injuries.

Over forty-five years since its formation, SCIA continues as a thriving member-based social enterprise, with a majority of people with a disability amongst its staff and directors. It has members throughout Australia and is highly respected by all levels of government and the community alike.

Why we exist

Much has changed in the forty-five years since SCIA was formed but much remains to be done. Whilst life expectancy and life choices have improved substantially for people with spinal cord injuries, we still live in a world where necessary equipment and support services for daily living are not available when and where they are needed, where physical, emotional and psychological decline are a constant threat, and where society continues to throw up barriers to full community participation, whether these barriers be physical, financial or attitudinal. SCIA works tirelessly to assist in the elimination of these barriers that prevent social inclusion for people with a spinal cord injury—ensuring that the society in which we live is fully accessible to everybody.

SCIA’s focus is to get people ‘back on track’ following a spinal cord injury—finding the solutions to obstacles that may arise and providing support to ensure people with a spinal cord injury remain actively involved in personal, social and vocational activities. SCIA’s services encompass all of life, from hospital to home to workplace, and the organisation strives to develop programs to educate and support the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) community. The organisation endeavours to provide the relevant information and services to assist those with a spinal cord injury, their family, friends and the wider community and to ensure that advances in research and service development throughout the world result in advances for those with a spinal cord injury here in Australia.
VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Vision
A society without barriers for people with a spinal cord injury

Mission
Our constant innovation creates independence and unlimited opportunity for people living with spinal cord injury

Values
Integrity, Trust, Collaboration, Excellence, Empathy, Sustainability

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. To position Spinal Cord Injuries Australia as the recognised leader in all matters relating to spinal cord injury

By 30 June 2013, we will:

1. Better understand the characteristics and needs of people living with SCI
2. Develop and implement innovative services to respond to those needs
3. Change many lives through our innovative Transition and Respite Services
4. Expand our Peer Support, Employment, Walk On and Regional Services
5. Leverage our current social enterprise expertise into new areas
6. Raise the profile and understanding of both spinal cord injury and Spinal Cord Injuries Australia with all relevant stakeholders
7. Significantly increase our member numbers and member engagement
8. Grow our fundraising capability and partnerships to sustain future operations
9. Invest in our people and infrastructure to remain an employer of choice

2. To advance the rights, choices and entitlements of people living with a disability

3. To do whatever it takes to create and maintain relevant services for people with spinal cord injury and similar conditions
The Vulnerability Index (VI) measures an organisation’s vulnerability to the loss of one or more sources of income. An organisation with a VI of 100 has only one source of income, and is very vulnerable to the loss of that income source. A lower number is desirable, with a number below 20 considered ideal. SCIA’s current VI is 19.6, and ways to reduce this further are considered during each annual planning cycle.
**WHAT IS SPINAL CORD INJURY?**

Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) is damage to the spinal cord that results in loss of function, such as mobility or feeling. Frequent causes of damage are trauma (e.g. car accident, falls, diving) or disease (e.g. polio, spina bifida, Friedreich’s Ataxia).

The adult spinal cord is about 50 cm long and extends from the base of the brain to about the hips. It is the major bundle of nerves that carry impulses between the brain and the rest of the body. Nerves within the spinal cord (upper motor neurons) carry messages back and forth from the brain to the spinal nerves along the spinal tract.

The spinal cord lies within vertebrae. These rings of bones are together called the spinal column or back bone. Injury to the spinal cord causes loss of function of the nerves, limbs and organs below the site of injury. In general, the higher in the spinal column an injury occurs, the more dysfunction a person will experience.

There are seven vertebrae in the neck—the cervical vertebrae—C1 (at the top) to C7. Injury in this region usually causes loss of function to the arms and legs.

Loss of function in the arms and legs is called quadriplegia.

There are twelve thoracic vertebrae. The highest (T1) is where the top rib attaches. Injury to the thoracic region affects the chest and the legs.

Between the thoracic vertebrae and the pelvis lie the five lumbar vertebrae. The five sacral vertebrae run from the pelvis to the end of the spinal column. Injury to the lumbar and sacral vertebrae generally result in loss of functioning in the hips and legs.

Loss of function in the chest, hips and legs is called paraplegia.

The effects of SCI depend on the type and level of the injury and even then every person is different.

There are two types of injury—complete and incomplete. A complete SCI is one that at the point of injury the passage of signals between the brain and the body is completely severed. There is no function below the level of the spinal column injury—no sensation and no voluntary movement. Both sides of the body are equally affected. A person with an incomplete injury may be able to move one limb more than another, may be able to feel parts of the body that cannot be moved, or may have more functioning on one side of the body than the other. With the advances in acute treatment of SCI, incomplete injuries are becoming more common.

The level of injury is very helpful in predicting what parts of the body might be affected by paralysis and loss of function. A person with an SCI above C4 may require a ventilator to breathe. C5 injury often leaves shoulder and bicep control, but no control at the wrist or hand. C6 injury leaves control of the wrist, but not the hand. C7 and T1 injuries leave the ability to straighten the arms, but have only limited hand and finger dexterity.

Injuries below T1 result in paraplegia. At T1 to T8 there is most often control of the hands, but lack of abdominal muscle control and poor trunk control. Lower T injuries leave good control of the trunk and abdominal muscles. Injuries at the lumbar and sacral vertebrae reduce control of the hip flexors and legs.

Besides a loss of sensation or motor functioning, SCI produces other changes. There can be bowel and bladder dysfunction. Sexual functioning is also frequently affected by SCI. Men may have their fertility affected, while women’s fertility is generally not affected. Very high injuries (C1, C2) can result in a loss of many involuntary functions including the ability to breathe, necessitating breathing aids such as mechanical ventilators or diaphragmatic pacemakers. Other effects of SCI may include low blood pressure, the inability to regulate blood pressure effectively, reduced control of body temperature, the inability to sweat below the level of injury, and in many cases, chronic pain.
“More than 15,000 people are living with a spinal cord injury in Australia”

- More than 15,000 people are living with a spinal cord injury in Australia
- One person a day suffers a spinal cord injury
- Most injuries occur in young people, with the highest incidence in males aged 15–24 years
- With improved emergency management, medical care and rehabilitation, life expectancy after spinal cord injury has improved, leading to increasing prevalence in the future
- Labour force participation rates are low following spinal cord injury, only 55%
- Costs are about $284,000 per ventilator-dependent quadriplegic per year
- Costs are about $197,000 per non-ventilator dependent tetraplegic per year
- The total cost of spinal cord injury in Australia is estimated to be $2 billion annually, comprising:
  
  Costs attributable to paraplegia ($689.7 million) and quadriplegia ($1.3 billion);
  Financial costs ($1.2 billion) and burden of disease costs ($803.2 million); and

- The greatest portions are borne by the state government (44.0%), individuals (40.5%) and the federal government (10.6%).
- The lifetime cost per incident case of SCI was estimated to be $5.0 million per case of paraplegia and $9.5 million per case of quadriplegia, across Australia.

Source:
2. Personal communication, Associate Professor Greg Murphy, Latrobe University
SCIA continues to develop programs, services and initiatives to ensure we better understand the needs of people living with a spinal cord injury and respond to those needs positively. Everything we do is aligned to our strategic goals as an organisation, to support our members, clients and the wider community, and ultimately benefit those with a spinal cord injury.

**GOAL 1: BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CHARACTERISTICS AND NEEDS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH A SPINAL CORD INJURY**

**ACTIONS SUPPORTING THIS GOAL**

**Maximising Life Choices of People with Spinal Cord Injury**

In order to better understand the factors limiting the life choices available to people with spinal cord injury, and to identify how our resources can be best targeted to provide the most impact, SCIA has undertaken a research project in collaboration with the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Interviews with a diverse range of people with spinal cord injury have been undertaken, regarding quality of life, life choices, support needs, experience of good support and gaps in support, in order to gain different but informed perspectives about the opportunities needed for full participation in life and the barriers to meeting goals.

Following the in-depth interviews further quantitative data was gained through a survey to confirm the extent to which the findings from the interviews are applicable to our broader members and clients and, where relevant, explore and clarify specific findings.

The research results will be presented to the SCIA Board in late 2012. The issues identified by the research will be prioritised, and the organisation’s response will be determined in three areas:

- Provision of new services
- Development of new partnerships, or expansion of existing partnerships
- Development of policy positions to put before government and other decision makers

**Spinal Cord Injuries Australia Independence Expo**

The first event of its kind for people with spinal cord injury and the first event of its kind for SCIA!

Held in March at Sydney’s Olympic Park, it was a unique one-day event aimed at giving people living with spinal cord injury, and similar physical disability, their family and friends, access to an extensive range of the most current products, services and resources all under one roof.

Over 250 visitors and 44 exhibitors registered and attended from all over NSW and Australia, and SCIA, with the assistance of the Australian government, was pleased to offer an Attendance Support Scheme to its members, reimbursing travel expenses associated with their attendance at the event.

The Independence Expo was a showcase of who’s who in the industry, with a myriad of organisations helping SCIA to share invaluable information with its members, clients and the wider community. Whether visiting the exhibitor booths, attending a workshop, watching demonstrations or joining in activities, it was fantastic to see so many people connecting with new possibilities.

Specialists in their field conducted a series of short topical workshops throughout the day. Participants acquired new information on vocation, travel, legal issues, technology and rehabilitation services. An abundance of activities were on offer during the Expo to test skills, promote new interests and demonstrate the latest equipment and visitors were able to trial assistive technology products, view fitness DVDs and participate in wheelchair sports.
Visitors had the opportunity to access the latest products and services specifically catering to their needs. A broad range of exhibitor categories was represented: mobility, transport, recreation, fitness and sport, daily living equipment, information, travel services, and much more.

SCIA extends a very sincere thank you to all of those who attended the Expo, to the specialists who conducted workshop presentations, and to the organisations that exhibited their products and services.

**Global SCI Consumer Network**

As a result of connections made during a recent overseas trip, SCIA has been invited to attend the launch of the Global SCI Consumer Network in London in September 2012. SCIA will be represented by our President, Tony Varrall. This event will provide an opportunity to connect with like-minded organisations from around the world, and to gain a better understanding of the issues facing people living with a spinal cord injury globally, and the ways in which other organisations have responded to these issues. This will be an invaluable opportunity to learn from others, and share our own experiences and insights.

**Social Return on Investment Project (SROI)**

SROI is a framework for identifying, measuring and accounting for the value an activity creates from the perspective of each stakeholder. This project will provide us with the tools to more fully understand which of our programs are having the greatest impact for our clients.

SCIA engaged Social Ventures Australia (SVA) Consulting to undertake a baseline SROI analysis of our Sydney Walk On program to understand and value the impact that SCIA has on the various stakeholders involved in the activity. The SROI analysis was based on two years of investment between April 2010 and April 2012 and was peer reviewed by an accredited SROI practitioner.

The major stakeholders who experienced change from Walk On were recorded as:

- **Participants in Walk On (with SCI):** who experienced increased independence, self-confidence, hopes for future mobility and happiness, as well as developing a sense of identity and belonging in a community.
- **Families of participants in Walk On:** who had more time to pursue their own interests, experienced less strain on family relationships, and valued a more fulfilling and self-determined life led by their family member with SCI.
- **University of Sydney:** who had more clinical placements for students, and benefitted from further research into intensive physical rehabilitation programs for SCI.
- **SCIA:** who met the expressed needs of their clients (to participate in a high intensity physical rehabilitation program), benefitted from an increased level of general funding for SCIA, and experienced increased awareness of SCIA that led to a national profile and more clients.
- **Funders:** who valued people with SCI leading more fulfilling and self-determined lives.
- **Government:** who benefitted from savings due to reduced use of medication, and the reallocation of resources due to reduced hospital stays.

The major outcomes were recorded as:

**The majority of value is created for participants, who are also the major investors.** As a fee for service program, 73 per cent of investment comes from participants. The average participant invests $11,000 (of which $7,000 is cash), and receives benefits valued at $50,000 for each year of investment.

**The most valued outcome for participants is their increased independence.** This is achieved as they increase the strength of working muscles, and also reactivate barely working/non-working muscles. As a result their mobility increases and they are able to do regular tasks autonomously. 45 per cent of participant value comes through increased independence experienced, and 31 per cent from the increased hopes for independence in the future.

**Walk On generates important outcomes for the Government and the University of Sydney.** Due to high demand, the clinical placements that Walk On provides to the University of Sydney are valuable ($170,000). Additionally, since beds are costly in the public health system, the Government benefits particularly from the reallocation of resources due to reduced hospital stays ($174,000).

The SROI ratio indicates that for every $1 of investment in Walk On, $4.18 of value is created. In total, the $872,000 that all stakeholders have invested has returned $4,100,000 in social value.
STRAATEGIC GOALS AND SERVICES

GOAL 2: DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE SERVICES TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH A SPINAL CORD INJURY

ACTIONS SUPPORTING THIS GOAL

CHOICES Accommodation

Expanding SCIA’s accessible accommodation facilities, our CHOICES apartment offers members the chance to experience life in a supportive environment outside the traditional medical environment during the intensive rehabilitation period, where they can develop the confidence and independence to live with their injury.

Members are able to utilise the apartment free of charge for up to seven days for quiet and private respite and quality time with family and friends. They maintain and learn new life skills, giving them the confidence to live independently in the community once they are discharged from hospital, making the re-adjustment of returning home a much easier transition.

"After a wedding ceremony in the gardens at Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, attended by fifty family members, close friends and Royal Rehab staff, my new wife Daphne and I were thrilled to stay at the CHOICES apartment for our honeymoon. During my rehabilitation period following a recent spinal cord injury, I was pleased to have the opportunity to stay at an apartment which provided my equipment and attendant care needs. It’s a wonderful apartment in a terrific area and after being in rehab for months it was really good for us to finally spend some time alone for a few days.

We found it to be a huge positive learning experience and the opportunity to direct and manage personal care routines for the first time was so beneficial. We got a glimpse into the realities of planning a weekend away and particularly enjoyed searching through the vast range of trial equipment, assistive technologies and product information to determine a few future purchases of our own. We’re definitely coming back again!"

Neville, SCIA Member

Specialist SCI Employment Service

Since 2010, SCIA Workforce has been the only Disability Employment Service to offer a specialised service to those with a spinal cord injury in NSW. Our experience over 45 years of providing information, education, advocacy and services for people with a spinal cord injury, as well as our holistic approach to supporting clients through our variety of services, means we are ideally placed to support the employment needs of those with a spinal cord injury. SCIA Workforce continues to successfully raise the profile of people living with spinal cord injury and their ability to return to the workforce. In the last 2 years, we have assisted approximately 35 people with a spinal cord injury to find employment and/or education.

Discovering the Power in Me (DPM)

Challenging the thinking of people who have experienced traumatic injury, the DPM program is based around how we think and how our thoughts impact significantly on every facet of our lives. It demonstrates how we let habits, attitudes and beliefs stand in the way of our inner potential and reveals how our beliefs and expectations about ourselves, families, and our futures are directly related to our current realities. The course shows how important it is for those who have suffered a traumatic injury in particular, to lock on to the power of the mind and focus on a productive future."
RollAwayz

Opening in Google Earth, this SCIA creation shows the location of wheelchair accessible accommodation in hotels, resorts, motels, backpacker hostels and ‘bed and breakfasts’ across Australia. Users can see exactly where the accommodation is and what is nearby. There are over 1,800 properties and more are being added as they are identified.

What Next? DVD Series

Thanks to funds donated from the Roth Charitable Foundation, SCIA has produced a series of DVDs to give people with a spinal cord injury a quick and easy guide to adapting to everyday life as a wheelchair user. Starring SCIA clients and staff, the DVDs include real life examples and tutorials on how to manage daily situations in new and different ways, and hints and tips for promoting self-management and independent living. Topics include wheelchair maintenance, specialist equipment and home modifications, practical continence equipment options and accessibility issues and how to deal with them. The DVDs are available on our YouTube channel.

GOAL 3: CHANGE MANY LIVES THROUGH OUR INNOVATIVE TRANSITION AND RESPITE SERVICES

Client Skills Development Program

Launched in February 2012 as a pilot program, funding was provided to our members to assist them in learning new skills and adapting current ones, helping them to become more independent following their spinal cord injury. Funding was utilised to cover travel and accommodation costs as well as formal learning including driving lessons, IT courses and seminars. At times of significant change in life, acquiring new skills can make all the difference.

Transitional Funding

This one-off funding is provided to assist members with the transition from the rehabilitation unit to their home following their spinal cord injury. Operating through the Peer Support Team, SCIA works closely with clinical staff within the spinal units to identify and provide additional resources, assistive aids, training, or care outside of that which is traditionally provided.

Funding provides solutions to some of the major issues people face when they return to the community, including ensuring that people who live alone have communication devices, contributing towards home or car modifications to increase independence or even in assisting families to play an active role throughout the rehabilitation process.

Assistance is also provided at other transition points in life, such as moving house, commencing or leaving employment or training, experiencing relationship issues or medical setbacks. Adapting to life with a spinal cord injury is often not about the big things, but is often about overcoming a vast array of relatively minor hurdles, which together can seem overwhelming. Our Transitional Funding program is designed to remove as many of these small hurdles as we can, so that people can focus on the important things in life.

Flexible Respite

This programs aims to give members with a spinal cord injury, their family or primary carer, choice in obtaining access to flexible respite that is meaningful to them and provides a positive experience. The packages can cover costs such as travel, accommodation, care and equipment hire.

“...
have barbecues at the beach, and Clover loved playing with her Dad in the surf. Since Richard’s accident it’s been really difficult to have ‘fun’ as a family.

Nothing is the same as before and life often revolves around watching DVDs at home. At times this can feel a little bit trapping and we all get claustrophobic. I’m Richard’s carer all day and throughout the night – it’s a full-time job and I get exhausted and overwhelmed at times. We desperately needed to get away. I have tried many times in the past three years since Richard left hospital to see if we could go on a holiday but I’ve always been left disappointed – we simply could not afford it. The cost of specialised equipment, personal care, and medication needed after a spinal cord injury makes it very hard to make ends meet.

Then we heard about SCIA’s Flexible Respite Program. I thought it was too good to be true but within a couple of weeks of filling in the application form, we were able to book a cruise – finally we had something to look forward to!

The experience was out of this world – it was a complete adventure like no other for the whole family. We went to amazing shows, played trivia, relaxed by the pool and in the library, did craft classes, and went to talks and lectures. Clover even performed in the kids club show! The list goes on and on, and there was never a moment where Richard just had to watch and wait for us.

We explored new lands and cultures, and were blown away by our experiences. Clover thought it was the most amazing adventure ever. She made new friends at the kids club, won awards, had dance lessons, swam every day, and had special time with her dad exploring the ship. Our lives were truly improved by receiving the respite funding.

Kylie, wife of Respite Funding recipient

understanding of the practical aspects of a spinal cord injury and how to resolve the common issues that occur in terms of health management, social and community interactions, service provision, and many activities of daily living. The ultimate outcome of this support is to provide the knowledge and information required for each client to live as independently as possible. SCIA’s Peer Support team has a 100 per cent referral rate in Sydney’s spinal units.

SCIA Workforce – Northern Rivers

SCIA’s disability employment service expanded into the Northern Rivers region in 2012, allowing us to support more people with a disability to return to work and achieve their employment goals. Adding to its services in Sydney’s inner city and eastern suburbs, this expansion of SCIA Workforce has allowed more people to access the service and return to the workforce.

“I have always been a very busy woman, whether it was taking my children to sports clubs, cooking at the local community club, or working at the local school. But my greatest love was working on the land: mustering, feeding, and drenching stock, or just getting my hands dirty. Everything changed when two hay bales, each weighing 500 kg, fell on me.
My world was turned upside down. I went from being a very busy and independent person to being reliant on my family and friends. I felt like I was dying from the inside out and just wanted to be useful again. SCIA’s employment team has helped me to get my independence and my life back. They’ve helped me understand my options and access the government funds available to me and, with their help, 17 months after my injury I am now back working on my farm.

I think everyone needs to have an ambition and purpose in life so they can keep moving forwards. SCIA has helped me to achieve this once again. If I can return to work then so can many other people.”

Margaret, SCIA Member and Workforce Client

Walk On

SCIA's highly acclaimed Walk On program became truly national this year with the opening of facilities in Perth and Melbourne to join our Sydney and Brisbane operations. Fifteen specially trained Walk On therapists work with over 75 clients across Australia each week on individually designed intensive exercise rehabilitation programs. The exercises focus on the whole body to improve physical functioning by developing greater strength, coordination and new skills. Clients can choose to participate in-house on a long-term basis at the Walk On facilities or attend a short-term program in-house where they receive the advice and resources required to carry on the program at home.

Walk On Melbourne Launch

SCIA’s fourth Walk On facility opened its doors to clients in January 2012, followed by an official launch by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Patron of SCIA, in May. In partnership with Victoria University (VU), the facility is situated at Whitten Oval, a short distance from VU’s Footscray campus. Walk On Melbourne clients Isabel and Rod spoke at the launch about the difference that Walk On had made to their lives and how important it was to them to have the Walk On program in Melbourne.

Ms Bryce showed a true understanding of the Walk On program and its clients’ goals during her speech commenting, “The Walk On program isn’t about learning how to manage a crippling injury or how to accept a lifelong disability. It’s about looking and literally moving beyond injury and disability, to reclaim the life you want to lead”.

“I was on my buck’s night and due to be married in four weeks when my life changed forever. I was riding a dirt bike when I slid over a concealed road and broke my back. I was airlifted to hospital where I discovered I had no function below my waist. My future was thrown in chaos and at 27 years old I was told to get used to my chair and prepare for a life as a paraplegic. My injury at times has made me feel alone, depressed and helpless. It robbed me not only of the ability to walk but also the use of many basic functions, taking my dignity and pride.

I have always been very active and I decided I did not want to accept life in a wheelchair and so my recovery and new life began. I needed to do something proactive to try and engage my brain and my legs. We spent a lot of time researching spinal cord injury and stumbled across Walk On.
Walk On for me can be described in one word ‘Positive’. When you have a spinal cord injury you hear a lot of “No you can’t” and “No you won’t” but at Walk On you never hear the word “no” – the trainers made me feel that anything is possible and encouraged me to trust my body again. They listened and understood my injury, using what function I had to its full potential. I felt both mentally and physically rejuvenated, gained more strength, coordination, and core stability, and I feel more positive about my future.

Rod, SCIA Member and Walk On Client

Regional Services

Providing information, support and assistance to clients with disabilities, their families, carers and other local services, SCIA’s regional services team work across New England, Illawarra and South Coast, Northern Rivers and Central West. The regional officers also identify barriers and gaps in services and actively advocate for additional or more appropriate services. They regularly attend meetings and public forums to raise awareness of the needs of people with physical disabilities. The regional services team in the Northern Rivers was further strengthened in 2012 with the relocation of an SCIA disability employment consultant to the region, helping people in the area to return to work and achieve their employment goals. During the 2012 financial year, the staffing in the Tamworth office was significantly expanded, and similar expansions will occur in Lismore and Mudgee in the future.

GOAL 5: LEVERAGE OUR CURRENT SOCIAL ENTREPRISE EXPERTISE INTO NEW AREAS

ACTIONS SUPPORTING THIS GOAL

Connectivity Project at the Prince of Wales Hospital

Recognising that it is vital for people with a spinal cord injury to maintain social contact and access information during their rehabilitation period, SCIA identified two opportunities to be able to achieve this in the spinal unit at the Prince of Wales Hospital (POWH), Sydney.

SCIA are working with POWH, with the generous support of our corporate partner, the ASG Group, to provide Wi-Fi connectivity in the spinal unit and give each patient in the spinal unit an iPad. The iPad was identified as being the most appropriate electronic device for a person with a spinal cord injury due to its lightweight and portable nature, and the ease of a touchscreen for those with reduced hand function.

All iPads given to patients are set up with voice activation options, SCIA’s Back on Track resource and Adobe reader. SCIA’s Education Officers are available to conduct tuition sessions and are available for support as required, including assisting to identify preferred applications and features.

“I use the iPad to read books, search the net and take notes. It’s good for me because I take it with me to have a break away from the spinal unit and I can do all those things with one piece of equipment. There’s a lot to think about after a spinal cord injury and a lot of spare time. I’m on the internet for hours.”

iPad Recipient

“I was confined to bed for seven months, couldn’t operate my laptop and spent all day watching TV. I’m so sick of those four channels! The games on the iPad have been a godsend to help pass the time. I’ve done my own banking and shopping for the first time in seven months. I love FaceTime. My sister lives on a second storey and I’ve only been to her house once. It was six years ago and I hired a manual chair so I could be carried up the stairs. We used FaceTime to give me a tour of her house. I saw my nephews’ rooms for the first time and their new puppy. I wouldn’t want to be here without it.”

iPad Recipient

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Contract with the Roads and Traffic Authority

After providing a high quality service to the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (RTA) for 30 years, the extension of the contract for our Geo and Data service is currently under negotiation, with a five year extension expected in the new financial year. This Australian Disability Enterprise, which employs around 20 people, most of whom have a disability, provides a data coding and mapping service to the RTA. The data generated from our Geo and Data service supports the RTA’s efforts to identify black spots (areas of high accident frequency) and improve road safety, including a reduction in the number of spinal cord injuries, around 50% of which result from road accidents.

Additional Contracts

Due to the success of our Geo and Data service, and the benefits it brings in terms of revenue generated for the organisation, provision of employment, and its contribution to the community through improvements to road safety, it is intended to apply the skills and expertise we have built up over many years to other areas. At the end of the financial year, negotiations were underway with a number of parties to undertake a range of tasks including data entry, coding, and geographical and mapping services. Successful completion of these negotiations will lead to contracts for new services, which will help to diversify the organisation’s revenue sources, further enhance our ability to provide employment for people with a disability, and further engage with and support the community in which we all live.

University Partnerships

SCIA’s Walk On program operates in partnership with several leading universities: The University of Sydney (Walk On Sydney), Edith Cowan University (Walk On Perth), and Victoria University (Walk On Melbourne). By partnering with these respected universities, the Walk On program is able to utilise exercise and sports science and/or physiotherapy students to assist in the delivery of the program, enhancing the clients’ Walk On experience. Students from exercise and sports science courses are involved at all Walk On sites as part of their formal clinical placements which allows clients to benefit from exercises and activities which require greater assistance, whilst also providing students with great practical experience. SCIA also works with the universities to assist in training and research associated with Walk On, ensuring that the program is at the forefront of rehabilitation knowledge and techniques to improve the lives of people with a spinal cord injury.

GOAL 6: RAISE THE PROFILE AND UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH SPINAL CORD INJURY AND SPINAL CORD INJURIES AUSTRALIA WITH ALL RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Representing the interests of people with physical disabilities, SCIA’s Policy and Advocacy team provide support at three levels: individual advocacy (individual cases supported), systemic advocacy (providing support or removing barriers for many people with a disability), and community-based advocacy (supporting issues raised by individuals that benefit the wider community).

The last twelve months have been ones of expansion and development, with a growth in the numbers of advocates working in the service available to support SCIA’s members.

We’re happy to report that with a team of five, including SCIA’s first ever Policy and Advocacy volunteer, the team has worked on 107 individual advocacy cases and developed work on eight key systemic issues that affect our members. SCIA continues its reputation as leaders in the field of policy advice to government and over the last year we have provided 18 written pieces of information to both the state and federal governments.

The team has worked to prevent early admission to nursing homes; create an environment where parents can feel they have more of a role to play in their children’s lives; found many homes in environments where accessible homes are rare; and even supported individuals going for a swim.

SCIA have worked hard on taxi subsidies, home modifications, welfare reform, the DSP, carer recruitment strategies, the National Disability Insurance Scheme and National Disability Strategy development.

It has been a full year and we have no doubt next year will be even busier.
SCIA in the Media

SCIA continues to increase awareness of spinal cord injury and the role of our organisation in the wider community. Over the past year SCIA programs and members have featured in The Sydney Morning Herald (Pathways supplement), The Herald Sun, The Manly Daily, The Pakenham Cardinia Leader, The Wanneroo Times, The Daily Advertiser, The Northern Star, and The Coffs Coast Advocate. We have also featured on the Channel Nine and Channel Seven news. SCIA has an active online community though our Facebook and Twitter sites and YouTube channel.

www.facebook.com/spinalcordinjuriesaustralia
www.twitter.com/walk__on
www.youtube.com/spinalcordinjuriesau

Info Service

This free service provides comprehensive information covering every aspect of life for people with spinal cord injury and the range of services and financial support available to live in the community. It provides people with a disability, their families, carers and the wider public with practical, relevant information.

Traumatic Injury and Disability Insurance Summit (TIDIS)

SCIA is a founding participant in this series of industry summits, sponsored by Suncorp and PwC, which are examining the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the National Injury Insurance Scheme. SCIA’s leading position within the sector has been recognised through our participation by invitation in these summits, which combine representatives from government, industry, the professions and the disability sector.

Partnership with Slater & Gordon Lawyers

SCIA’s partnership with Slater & Gordon Lawyers has many benefits for both organisations. During the 2012 financial year, representatives from Slater and Gordon met on a number of occasions with SCIA staff, to learn more about the issues facing people who experience traumatic injury and the true impact on their lives. In turn, our staff were able to learn more about the legal avenues available to people who sustain an injury. This exchange of information and mutual learning will, over time, significantly increase the understanding of the impacts of spinal cord injury, and lead to a better deal for our members. Slater and Gordon also generously donated a number of iPads during the year for the use of our peer support team. This is critical, as we supply iPads to all newly-injured people in NSW (with the generous support of ASG Group Limited), and the peer support team need to be familiar with this technology so they can provide advice and assistance to people in the spinal units.

GOAL 7: SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE OUR MEMBER NUMBERS AND MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

ACTIONS SUPPORTING THIS GOAL

Increased Member Benefits

Increasing our member benefits has been a priority for SCIA over the past year. Through new programs and initiatives our members now enjoy:
- Flexible respite packages
- Transitional funding packages
- Client skills development packages
- Discounted rates for Walk On
- Discounted holiday accommodation in Coffs Harbour
- Access to SCIA’s Discovering the Power in Me program

We will continue to add to these benefits to support our members in as many ways as possible.

Getting to Know our Members

In addition to these benefits, we have recently created a new position in the organisation - Client Marketing Coordinator. This position exists purely to engage in a dialogue with our members, to better understand their needs, and to ensure that we are listening to our members, operating in accordance with their wishes, and using the resources at our disposal to do as much as we can to make the world a better place for people with a spinal cord injury.
GOAL 8: GROW OUR FUNDRAISING CAPACITY AND PARTNERSHIPS TO SUSTAIN FUTURE OPERATIONS

ACTIONS SUPPORTING THIS GOAL

The client experience of SCIA services is widened and enriched by the generous support of individuals, community groups, companies and trusts and foundations. Over the last few years, relationships with these philanthropic people and groups have deepened and a big ‘thank you’ goes to all those who have contributed to the positive outcomes for SCIA clients.

Community Fundraising

This year’s community fundraising saw a diverse range of events and fundraising activities across Australia in aid of SCIA. Fundraisers participated in nine running events, including Sydney’s City2Surf, Bridge to Brisbane, and Melbourne’s City2Sea. Other events included a golf day, the ‘Walk. Why Not?’ gala ball in Melbourne which raised funds for Walk On Melbourne, the ‘Easy Rider’ event which included 120 motorcycles cruising down the south coast of NSW, and the ‘Flame On Down Under’ event which showcased 40 hot glass artists from around the world. Another highlight was the MLC ‘Risk Ride’ event which saw participants cycle 620 km from Perth to Bunker Bay to raise funds for SCIA.

Trusts and Foundations

Consolidating a growing relationship with Allens Arthur Robinson (AAR), Jim Dwyer and members of the AAR Sydney Charity Committee donated over $13,000 to finalise the purchase of the FES bike at Walk On Sydney – a specialist piece of equipment required for intensive physical rehabilitation for those with a spinal cord injury.

Similarly, as part of an ongoing involvement with Slater & Gordon Lawyers, the Slater & Gordon Fund at Melbourne Community Foundation, made SCIA’s iPad/myWorld! Project a reality. Their support provided iPads 2s for eight peer support officers so as to streamline their work, particularly in hospital spinal units. For the first time they now have a truly mobile office!

A launch of the ‘What Next?’ DVDs was held to thank the Roth Charitable Foundation for the extremely generous donation of almost $50,000 funding which guaranteed the production of a suite of videos designed as a guide and reference tool to make life easier for people to adapt to everyday life with an SCI. It is always a delight to be able to acquit donations and this showcasing event was very special – thanks to all!

Field Appeals

In 2011–12 SCIA employed 27 field appeal collectors across NSW. Each collector is paid 33 per cent of the money they raise and for many it is their only source of income. Many of the field appeal collectors have been working for SCIA for many years and they value the contribution they are making.

Teamsafe

SCIA’s injury prevention program delivers thought-provoking and emotional real-life stories from ambassadors who have personally experienced catastrophic injuries. The ambassadors have a range of different experiences to share and their presentations describe how not only their lives were changed forever in the blink of an eye, but also the physical and emotional effects that followed, and how life is for them today. Teamsafe ambassadors are enthusiastic to share their stories to raise awareness of spinal cord injuries and accidents in the workplace.

Teamsafe complements OHS programs as the human emotional link to why safety processes need to be based on participation, facilitation and empowerment. The message delivered by the Teamsafe ambassadors is ‘if you are unsure it’s safe, stop and reassess’. As one Ambassador said, “If I can prevent just one injury by sharing my story then it is all worthwhile”.

Teamsafe can also help people with a disability to make the transition into new careers as they develop different skills as Teamsafe ambassadors. The interaction with fellow workers helps boosts self-esteem and increases their confidence, which facilitates their return to work.

In 2011–12, four Teamsafe ambassadors gave 17 presentations to companies around Australia, with a total of 1,200 attendees. The companies included UGL Limited, John Holland Group, K2RQ, Qantas, Paynter Dixon, Abigroup, Hunter8 Alliance, Transfield Services.

“Teamsafe’s message was simple - you can never be complacent about workplace safety, that all employees are responsible for the safety of themselves and others, and to always look out for your mates at work.”

Leading Edge, QANTAS Engineering Newsletter
STRAATEGIC GOALS AND SERVICES

CORPORATE PARTNERS

GIO Workers Compensation

SCIA and GIO Workers Compensation share the belief that using real life experience can produce practical outcomes. That’s what Teamsafe is about. Over the three years of partnering with GIO Workers Compensation, Teamsafe has presented to more than 8,000 attendees.

In its third and final year, the partnership between GIO Workers and SCIA has resulted in substantial professional development of Teamsafe ambassadors and created presentation opportunities for them, enabling SCIA to recruit local ambassadors in more states to further expand this important injury prevention program throughout Australia.

"We recognise spinal cord injuries impact approximately 12,000 Australians each year and, as part of the country’s largest and leading personal injury insurer, we see a natural alignment between our organisation and SCIA in the desire to reduce injuries in the workplace and provide world class injury management to those who do incur an injury. GIO Workers Compensation has been a proud Corporate Sponsor of SCIA over the past three years. We know our sponsorship has been well received at SCIA. Our work together has assisted the Teamsafe injury prevention program, fundraising efforts and participation in community volunteering opportunities."

Patrik Ekstrom, Principal Advisor, Distribution & Product, Workers Compensation Portfolio | Commercial Insurance

ASG Group Limited and SCIA share common values of collaboration, integrity, trust, innovation and excellence in our work. ASG began supporting SCIA with pro bono IT consulting and the facilitation of computer hardware discounts from their suppliers, saving SCIA thousands of dollars. ASG Group are committed to a practical philanthropic pathway, using iPad technology to make a positive contribution to the lives of patients with spinal cord injuries.

As part of the ConnectAbility program arising out of this partnership, ASG provided specially modified iPads and wi-fi capabilities to the bedside of many people within the Prince of Wales Hospital Spinal Rehabilitation Unit. They are provided for the entire rehabilitation journey in hospital and the patients keeps their iPad upon their return home.

"ASG is very proud to be a corporate partner to Spinal Cord Injury Australia (SCIA) and be able to participate in the launch of the ConnectAbility program, at the Prince Of Wales (POW) spinal unit this year. This program has seen ASG, in partnership with SCIA , delivering 20 iPads and a wireless network to help alleviate the boredom and isolation for patients at the POW hospital with spinal cord injuries. We are excited to work with SCIA and take this program to different hospitals in Australia in the future."

Dean Langenbach, COO, ASG Group Limited

Annual Report 2012 19
SCIA formed a partnership with Slater & Gordon Lawyers to increase the knowledge and understanding between lawyers and people who have a spinal cord injury who find themselves in a situation where they can receive compensation through a series of education sessions across Sydney and regional NSW and two workshops.

"It has been a busy and enormously fulfilling year working with SCIA on many exciting initiatives. Through the comprehensive education seminars held in Sydney, Wollongong and Coffs Harbour, Slater & Gordon’s Lawyers have had the amazing opportunity to connect with SCIA’s peer support team and to develop a deeper understanding of the financial, emotional and physical requirements of a person with spinal cord injury.

Sheree, Rhys and Lucia’s visit to S&G’s Sydney office was definitely the highlight of our lawyers’ professional development session. Thirty MVA lawyers were able to learn in a very direct and ‘hands on’ way, not only about the health implications of spinal cord injury, but also the practical considerations for clients with SCI dealing with the legal system.

I would like to particularly thank Sheree and Rhys for their enormous generosity and humour shown during that session, and throughout the last 12 months.

Education and shared understanding is the foundation of the partnership between S&G and SCIA, and I am pleased that S&G was also able to reciprocate.

Rod Cunich (National Practice Group Leader, Private Clients) and I presented to the SCIA community on relevant legal issues throughout last year including the SCIA Peer Support Group Meeting in April 2011, the SCIA Training Day in August 2011 and the SCIA Independence Expo in March 2012. I was able to share my specialised knowledge with the SCIA community, to help them develop a better understanding of the compensation system and other areas of law which have particular impact on a person with spinal cord injury.

As a passionately plaintiff law firm which has helped ordinary Australians fight for best outcomes since 1935, Slater & Gordon is proud to be partnering with such an inspiring organisation as SCIA.

Genevieve Henderson, State Practice Group Leader Motor Vehicle Accidents, Slater & Gordon Lawyers
STRAategic GOALS aNd SEr ViCES

GOAL 9: INVEST IN OUR PEOPLE AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO REMAIN AN EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

ACTiONS SUPPoRTiNG THiS GOAL

Without our committed team of people who play a variety of roles in the organisation, we would not have achieved what we have in recent times. We have invested significantly in our people, processes and technology, to make sure our people are as well supported as possible, so they can provide the highest quality of service to the most important group of people of all, our clients.

Remuneration

Each employee has an individually-designed position description, describing both the technical and functional competencies required for their role. These position descriptions are used as a basis to compare our remuneration levels to the industry, to make sure that people are always being paid fairly for what they do.

Every year, each employee works with their manager and the rest of their team to develop their individual performance plan for the coming year, once they have been involved in the development of the overall plans for their area of work. This ensures that every employee is clear about the role they need to play in the achievement of the organisation’s overall goals, and also forms the basis for discussions about their performance and individual development during the year. It also provides clear goals which, if achieved, can lead to the payment of a small bonus under the SCIA Incentive Scheme, which rewards those who contribute most to the overall performance of the organisation.

Flexibility

Our people are also supported by the existence of flexible work practices, and a growing staff wellness program, which seeks to ensure that staff are supported as much as possible to keep themselves healthy and well. Most of our people have very demanding roles, and need the maximum support to ensure they can continue to have positive experiences at work and develop their careers.

Staff Training and Development

SCIA recognises the need to develop staff in all areas and at all levels within the organisation and provides education, information, training and support to allow staff to understand the requirements of their position, the roles of others within the organisation and the needs of people with a spinal cord injury or other condition that may relate to the performance of their duties. Staff are encouraged to try new things, and this has led to many initiatives being implemented on an ongoing basis. There are clear pathways for promotion or growth within the organisation for all staff.

Processes and Systems

- People can only do their jobs effectively if they have the right tools. SCIA is committed to providing our people with the tools and resources they need to do their job. In the last two years, we have:
  - Upgraded our IT infrastructure to make sure it is appropriate for our needs, is reliable, efficient, and can cope with the organisation’s growth.
  - Provided a range of tools to our staff, including desktop and laptop computers, mobile phones, Blackberries, and iPads; our people are supplied with the most relevant tools that will best support their individual needs.
  - Worked on the development of an Intranet, which will be implemented in mid 2012
  - Replaced our legacy Customer Relationship Management system with an industry-leading platform, Salesforce, to be fully implemented from mid-2012.
  - Expanded the rollout of the FrontDesk system, to support the national expansion of the Walk On program.
SCIA’s Board of Directors bears the ultimate responsibility for the overall management and legal requirements of the organisation and, as a Board, act as the ultimate policy-making body and goal setter of the organisation. They monitor the achievement of the organisation’s policies, goals and strategic directions. The Board is ultimately responsible for the governance and performance of SCIA.

SCIA’s Board of Directors is elected by the members of the organisation for a two year period with half standing down annually. The Board consists of an elected President, a Chairman (these may be the same person), and other Directors. The maximum size of the Board is nine, including two Invited Director positions who are chosen for their particular skill or expertise required by the Board. Persons with disabilities constitute a majority of the Board.

All Directors operate in a voluntary capacity. They meet at least once a month and more frequently if needed. In addition, many of them serve on sub-committees of the Board, which look at specific areas of operation or issues of interest. All Directors must have the skills and qualities to actively participate and to contribute to the development of SCIA. All Directors, including the Chair, undertake self-appraisalals of their performance as directors each year.

Further information on the Board and its Charter of Operations can be found at www.scia.org.au/board-of-directors.

**Board**

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**Directors**

David Brawn  
**Director and Chairman, joined in 2006.**

David holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Maths from London University, a Masters in Business Studies from the London Business School and a Diploma with Order of Merit from the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He was CEO of Telstra eBusiness Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Telstra Corporation, before he retired in 2003. David is the immediate Past District Governor for Rotary District 9750 which has 51 Rotary clubs and 1400 members. David is the chair of SCIA’s CEO Liaison Sub-Committee and the Board Development and Governance Sub-Committee.

Antony Varrall, Acting President  
**Director, Deputy President and Treasurer, joined in 1996.**

Tony had just completed his first year of Industrial Arts High School teaching at Barrellian Central School when he had a motorcycle accident in January 1979, breaking his back leaving him with TS complete paralysis. After a year off recuperating, he recommenced teaching at Beacon Hill High School at the start of 1980. In 2002 Beacon Hill High School closed resulting in him moving to Freshwater Senior Campus where he continued full time teaching until he took medical retirement in 2005.

He was a member of Kuringai Council’s Access Committee from 2000 to 2003. In 2006 he became an ambassador for SCIA and joined the Board of SCIA towards the end of 2007. Tony is currently acting President of SCIA and a member of the CEO Liaison, Finance and Audit, and Member Issues Sub-Committees.

Tony is proud to be involved with an organisation that is doing so much for the disabled in our community.
DIRECTORS

David Brice

David worked for SCIA (AQA) from 1981–2002 in Advocacy and Administration. He has personal experience of severe physical disability and many years experiencing working with and for people with a physical disability, particularly in advocacy.

He has been a member of many government advisory committees on disability issues over the past 30 years. He was a director of the Physical Disability Council of Australia in 2004 and was President from 2002–04 and member of the Management Committee of the Physical Disability Council of NSW from 2000.

David O’Brien
Director, joined in 1996

David holds a Bachelor of Business in Accounting and is employed by the Audit Office of NSW. He is a member of SCIA’s Finance and Audit Sub-Committee and was a director of Sargood Centre Pty Ltd from April to June 2007.

Margaret Noonan
Director, joined in 2007

Margaret has eight years of experience working in the community services sector and was previously employed by SCIA as the Community Relations Manager.

She is currently employed as the Executive Officer for Ronald McDonald House Randwick.

Margaret has a Bachelor of Arts and a Postgraduate Diploma in Statistics from the University of New England and is experienced in management, service development, mergers, marketing and fundraising.

Richard Klinger
Director, joined in 1997–2005 and 2007

Richard was the Chairman of SCIA (AQA) from 1998–2001, President from 1999–2000, and a member of the Community Housing Advisory Committee from 2000–01. He is a member of SCIA’s Governance and Finance Sub-Committee and a past director and Chairman of Sargood Centre Pty Ltd.

Richard’s background is in the civil construction engineering field and his present occupation is Managing Director of Equibuilt, a Building Services Company.
Brad O’Hara
Director, joined March 2010

Brad is currently employed with NRMA Motoring & Services and heads up the Community Engagement and Motoring Technology portfolios. His position exposes him to diverse community groups and innovative motoring solutions and this has helped him understand the unique challenges that these groups face and how corporates and the not-for-profit sector can work together successfully to deliver on common goals.

Brad is passionate about helping in the community, having developed strategies and implemented community engagement programs at NRMA and acted as a volunteer for a number of charities and not-for-profits. He is also keen to explore new uses of communication and motoring technologies to further educate, engage and drive positive change in community attitudes towards people with spinal cord injury. He currently sits on the RTA’s Driver Reviver Committee, is a recipient of the Government of New South Wales medal for community service, a Member of the Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers and a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Brad uses his corporate knowledge and experience to strongly advocate for people with spinal cord injury so that they too can gain the independence and quality of life that others enjoy.

Michele Adair
Director, joined March 2010

Michele has a passion for equity and social justice. An early career in marketing led to the establishment of a consulting business that specialised in business development and performance management. Although Michele’s clients included government departments, corporates and professional service firms, the community sector has always been her first priority.

After 19 years of consulting, Michele made the transition to senior management positions at Mission Australia, The Smith Family, and Alzheimer’s Australia. She has been with the National Prescribing Service since 2009.

Joining the team at SCIA means Michele’s extensive program and community development experience will be focused on the needs – and rights – of people with spinal cord injuries. From service delivery to advocacy and policy development, evaluation and partnerships, Michele has professional and deep personal commitment to the SCIA vision and mission.
David Prast

Our friend and director David Prast passed away at his home on 22 November 2011.

David was 29 years old when he sustained an injury whilst bodysurfing which resulted in quadriplegia. A successful computer sales manager at the time of his accident, his passion and drive to succeed at work shifted to finding a cure for paralysis. His vision was a better life for all people affected by spinal cord injury.

Amongst his many achievements, David was a leading advocate for spinal cord injury research. He led the lobby to establish the Neurotrauma Research Program in Western Australia which was the first state to provide research funding for SCI. The program continues to fund research.

David helped to pioneer the International Campaign to Cure Paralysis, an affiliation of spinal cord injury research charities around the world. He presented at a number of international conferences and was always a welcome visitor to the many seminars and events he attended.

As well as being a Director of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) and SpinalCure Australia, David was also a member of the interim steering committee which set up the Spinal Cord Injury Network.

David passionately promoted the need for rehabilitation and intensive exercise following a spinal cord injury and this passion brought the Walk On program to Australia, providing intensive exercise rehabilitation—the first program of its kind in Australia. Walk On now operates in Brisbane, Sydney, Perth and Melbourne.

David’s influence wasn’t just in strategy and vision, he also rolled up his sleeves and got involved in knocking on doors and raising funds for SCIA. He was instrumental in establishing SCIA’s partnerships with Slater & Gordon Lawyers and ASG Limited who contribute in kind and financially to SCIA’s programs and with foundations such as Allens Arthur Robinson and Lotterywest.

Everyone who had the pleasure of knowing David will miss him immensely but his legacy lives on. We at SCIA are determined to work even harder to achieve his vision of a better life for all people affected by spinal cord injury. We owe him that.
Peter Perry  
Chief Executive Officer

I joined SCIA as Corporate Services Manager in 2006 after 30 years at senior levels in both corporate and not for profit organisations, where I specialised in financial management, change management and human resources development. I have managed budgets from $2m to $800m, and worked in organisations with as few as 30 people to as many as 130,000, including Mirvac Funds, Schroders Australia, State Bank of NSW, University of Sydney Union, and EDS. I have also contributed as a volunteer to Guide Dogs NSW and Humane Society International.

The organisation I now lead has a proud history of removing barriers in society, and facilitating independence for people with a disability. Despite the organisation’s specialist origins, its work encompasses issues and outcomes that are of relevance to all people with a disability.

I am keen to ensure that whilst promoting and supporting innovation, SCIA does not lose touch with its roots and its proud history, and is constantly finding ways to better engage with its members and the broader community. Too many charities end up looking like businesses, treating people like objects similar to chess pieces; while a commercial mindset and commercial practices are important to ensure maximum impact, commercial outcomes should never become more important than community and individual outcomes.

Whilst I am CEO, SCIA will always play a leading role in achieving full social inclusion for those who are most at risk of being marginalised.

Nicole Bechaz  
General Manager, Transitional Services

With a scientific background and a keen desire to help people, I became involved in medical research shortly after finishing my university studies. I loved the challenges involved in developing and assessing new therapeutics, interacting with government departments and regulatory bodies and working with people from a range of cultural backgrounds and across a broad demographic. I had the opportunity to travel extensively, experience living in several different locations around the world and gain many new skills that allowed me to move into my first formal management position several years ago. However, whilst there have been many personal and professional benefits to working within a corporate environment, my desire to work for a not-for-profit group where I could work to directly benefit clients every day became just too strong to resist!

After much research into the type of company I wanted to work for and an intensive interview process, I was very fortunate to be able to take up the position of General Manager, Transitional Services with SCIA in July 2011. This role has given me the opportunity to work across the programmes and teams that not only help our clients through their spinal cord injury but give them the support they need to transition back into their community with confidence and independence.

I feel very privileged to work with such an amazing team of people, all of whom bring their own unique experience and knowledge to the group. It is very inspiring to know that the team at SCIA all feel a very deep commitment to achieving the SCIA vision of “A society without barriers for people with spinal cord injuries”.

MANAGEMENT TEAM
Alex Traill  
Regional Services Manager  

Whilst working for the State Rail Authority of NSW as an overhead linesman in September 1976, I received an electrical shock from the 1500 volt overhead wiring system causing me to fall 10 metres and land on my side over the rail lines. The fall caused a T12 displacement of my spine, damaging the spinal cord.  

After my rehabilitation program in hospital I was then rehabilitated back into the work force in April 1977, in a clerical finance administration role with the State Rail Authority. I remained in that role until 1991 when I applied for the position I currently hold at SCIA.  

Here I administer SCIA’s regional services, providing support to regional staff and assistance to the consumer groups. We provide a service that delivers positive outcomes for people with SCIs. Working with a dedicated team of people has made me realise that for change to happen, you have to be involved.

Peter Murray  
General Manager, Service Delivery  

I joined SCIA in February 2010 to oversee four areas of the organisation: Geo & Data—an area delivering a key contract for the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, SCI Workforce—a registered Disability Employment Service assisting people with disabilities to find employment, including a specialist service for people with SCIs, Accommodation and Emergency Services—providing accommodation and emergency services for people with SCIs, and Walk On—the intensive exercise recovery program designed to assist a person with a SCI to maximise their functional recovery.  

I find working with a great team at SCIA and supporting our members very rewarding and, since joining the organisation, I am much more aware of the challenges faced by people living with a SCI.

Sean Lomas  
Policy and Advocacy Manager  

I joined SCIA in early 2006 from a diverse employment background; I had been involved with disability employment, blue chip ISP sales and the British military. Spinal Cord Injuries Australia was a stand out organisation even then and certainly over the last couple of years has become even more so. In my role as Policy and Advocacy Manager, I manage a team of five policy officers who are tasked with providing individual, community and systemic advocacy to our members. We are encouraged by the innovative atmosphere of the organisation to constantly seek out better ways to be more effective in the work we do. I certainly enjoy being a part of the team at SCIA and look forward to the many daily challenges that policy work provides.
Leila Mitchell  
Head of Marketing and Fundraising

I joined SCIA in January 2009 after a number of years in the fundraising field and experience in most aspects, including event management, corporate relations, direct marketing, bequest promotion and major gifts. I realised early in my career that my particular passion for fundraising is building relationships with the people and organisations that are committed to making a difference to the lives of people with a disability and providing them with ways to engage and invest.

The best part of my job is spending time with our clients and seeing the difference that our programs have made to their lives, not only physically but also emotionally and mentally. Being able to share those stories of hope, determination and overcoming adversity really puts life’s little worries into perspective.

In a perfect world my team wouldn’t be necessary, but unfortunately we aren’t there yet, and so we exist to encourage the wider community, corporate and individual supporters to invest in the work of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, to provide people with spinal cord injuries and disabilities the opportunity for a have a better life.

With SCIA’s services expanding and the number of spinal cord injuries increasing, the need for fundraising is also on the rise. Our job is to be innovative to ensure we keep up with demand. We are always on the lookout for new opportunities and would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in partnering with SCIA. Please contact me on lmitchell@scia.org.au.
Spinal Cord Injuries Australia
ABN: 93 001 263 734

Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2012
Directors' Report
30 June 2012

Your directors present their report on Spinal Cord Injuries Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2012.

1. General information

Directors

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Appointed/Resigned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Brawn</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Joined in 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*David Brice</td>
<td>Deputy Chairman</td>
<td>Joined in 2005 and past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Antony Varrall</td>
<td>Deputy President</td>
<td>director of AQA 1982-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Richard Klinger</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Joined in 1997-2005 and 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Noonan</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Joined in 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*David O'Brien</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Joined in 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*David Prast</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Joined 2005 (Deceased 2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad O'Hara</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Joined March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Adair</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Joined March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Perry</td>
<td>Company Secretary</td>
<td>Joined 2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Information on directors

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

David Brawn
Experience

David holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Maths from London University, a Masters in Business Studies from the London Business School and a Diploma with Order of Merit from the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He was CEO of Telstra eBusiness Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Telstra Corporation, before he retired in 2003. David is the immediate Past District Governor for Rotary District 9750 which has 51 Rotary clubs and 1400 members in NSW.

*David Brice
Experience

David worked for SCIA (AQA) from 1981–2002 in Advocacy and Administration. He has personal experience of severe physical disability and many years experiencing working with and for people with a physical disability, particularly in advocacy. He has been a member of many government advisory committees on disability issues over the past 30 years. He was a director of the Physical Disability Council of Australia in 2004 and was President from 2002–04 and member of the Management Committee of the Physical Disability Council of NSW from 2000.
Spinal Cord Injuries Australia  
ABN: 33 001 263 734  

Directors' Report  
30 June 2012  

1. General information (Cont'd)  

Information on directors (Cont'd)  

*Antony Varrall  

Experience  
Tony had just completed his first year of Industrial Arts High School teaching at Barellan Central School when he had a motorcycle accident in January 1979, breaking his back leaving him with T5 complete paralysis. After a year off recuperating, he recommenced teaching at Beacon Hill High School at the start of 1980. In 2002 Beacon Hill High School closed resulting in him moving to Freshwater Senior Campus where he continued full time teaching until he took medical retirement in 2005. He married Anne in 1983 and now has three adult boys, Michael, Christopher and Rowan. He was a member of Kuringai Council's Access Committee from 2000 to 2003. In 2008, he became an ambassador for Spinal Cord Injuries Australia and joined the Board of SCIA towards the end of 2007. Tony is currently acting President of SCIA and a member of the CEO Liaison, Finance and Audit and Member Issues sub-Committees He says he is proud to be involved with such a great organisation that is doing so much for the disabled in our community.

*Richard Klinger  

Experience  
Richard was the Chairman of SCIA (AQA) from 1998–2001, President from 1999–2000, and a member of the Community Housing Advisory Committee from 2000–01. He is a past director and Chairman of Sargood Centre Pty Ltd. Richard's background is in the civil construction engineering field and his present occupation is Managing Director of equibuilt, a Building Services Company.

Margaret Noonan  

Experience  
Margaret has eight years experience working in the community services sector and was previously employed by SCIA as the Community Relations Manager. She is currently employed as the Executive Officer for Ronald McDonald House Randwick.

*D. O'Brien  

Experience  
David holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and works for the Audit Office of NSW. He is a member of SCIA's Finance and Audit Sub-Committee.
Directors' Report
30 June 2012

1. General information (Cont'd)

Information on directors (Cont'd)

Brad O'Hara
Experience

Brad is currently employed with NRMA Motoring & Services and heads up the Community Engagement and Motoring Technology portfolios. His position exposes him to diverse community groups and innovative motoring solutions and this has helped him understand the unique challenges that these groups face and how corporates and the not-for-profit sector can work together successfully to deliver on common goals.

Brad is passionate about helping in the community, having developed strategies and implemented community engagement programs at NRMA and acted as a volunteer for a number of charities and not-for-profits. He is also keen to explore new uses of communication and motoring technologies to further educate, engage and drive positive change in community attitudes towards people with spinal cord injury. He currently sits on the RTA's Driver Reviver Committee, is a recipient of the Government of New South Wales medal for community service, a Member of the Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers and a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Brad uses his corporate knowledge and experience to strongly advocate for people with spinal cord injury so that they too can gain the independence and quality of life that others enjoy.

Michele Adair
Experience

Michele has a passion for equity and social justice. An early career in marketing led to consulting in strategy, business development and performance management. Although Michele's clients included government departments, corporates and professional service firms, the community sector has always been her first priority.

After 10 years, Michele made the transition to senior management positions at Mission Australia, The Smith Family, Alzheimer's Australia and National Prescribing Service.

Joining the team at SCIA means Michele's extensive program and community development experience will be focused on the needs — and rights — of people with spinal cord injuries. From service delivery to advocacy and policy development, evaluation and partnerships, Michele has professional and deep personal commitment to the SCI vision and mission.

*Denotes a person with a disability

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Principal activities

The principal activity of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia during the financial year was the provision of a range of services designed to maximise personal independence for all members and clients.

No significant changes in the nature of the entity's activity occurred during the financial year.
Directors' Report
30 June 2012

1. General information (Cont’d)

Short term objectives

The company’s short term objectives are to:

- To position Spinal Cord Injuries Australia as the recognised leader in all matters relating to spinal cord injury
- To advance the rights, choices and entitlements of people living with a disability
- To do whatever it takes to create and maintain relevant services for people with spinal cord injury and similar conditions

Strategy for achieving the objectives

To achieve these objectives, the company has adopted the following strategies:

- Better understand the characteristics and needs of people living with SCI
- Develop and implement innovative services to respond to those needs
- Change many lives through innovative transition and respite services
- Expand Peer Support, Employment, Walk On and Regional Services
- Leverage current social enterprise expertise into new areas
- Raise the profile and understanding of both SCI and SCIA with all relevant stakeholders
- Significantly increase member numbers and member engagement
- Grow fundraising capability and partnerships
- Invest in people and infrastructure to remain an employer of choice

How principal activities assisted in achieving the objectives

The principal activities assisted the company in achieving its objectives through the alignment of each department’s and individual’s performance plans to the strategic plan, with individual and departmental key performance indicators.

Performance measures

The following measures are used within the company to monitor performance:

- Key performance measures at the departmental level, appropriate to the needs of each department
- Key performance measures at the individual level, flowing from the departmental measures
- Social Return on Investment, to measure the social value being created through each program area
Spinal Cord Injuries Australia  
ABN: 93 001 263 734  

Directors' Report  
30 June 2012  

1. General information  
(Cont'd)  

Members guarantee  

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of $20 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the company. At 30 June 2012 the number of members was 572 (2011: 509).  

At 30 June 2012 the collective liability of members was $11,440 (2011: $10,180).  

Meetings of directors  

During the financial year, 11 meetings of directors were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directors' Meetings</th>
<th>Number eligible to attend</th>
<th>Number attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Brawn</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*David Brice</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Antony Varrall</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Richard Klinger</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Noonan</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*David O'Brien</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*David Prast</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad O'Hara</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Adair</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Perry</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Auditor's independence declaration  

The lead auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, for the year ended 30 June 2012 has been received and can be found on page 6 of the financial report.  

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:  

Director: ..................................................  
David Brawn  

Director: ..................................................  
Brad O'Hara  

Dated 25 October 2012
Spinal Cord Injuries Australia
ABN: 33 001 263 734

Auditor’s Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 to the Directors of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2012, there have been:

(i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and

(ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

[Signatures]

Dated this 25th day of October 2012

Sydney
### Financial Statements

**Spinal Cord Injuries Australia**  
**ABN: 53 001 263 734**

#### Statement of Comprehensive Income  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2012 $</th>
<th>2011 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>8,017,648</td>
<td>6,511,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>25,566</td>
<td>251,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community development expenses</td>
<td>(2,649,354)</td>
<td>(1,993,270)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community services expenses</td>
<td>(3,272,860)</td>
<td>(2,834,211)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct costs of fundraising</td>
<td>(143,351)</td>
<td>(94,292)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and Marketing</td>
<td>(1,890,561)</td>
<td>(1,306,426)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus before income tax</strong></td>
<td>87,088</td>
<td>535,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax expense</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus for the year</strong></td>
<td>87,088</td>
<td>535,215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other comprehensive income:**  
Profit/(Loss) on available for sale investments  
(3,523) | 17,390 |

**Other comprehensive income for the year**  
(3,523) | 17,390 |

**Total comprehensive income for the year**  
83,565 | 552,605
## Statement of Financial Position
As At 30 June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4,209,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>238,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,448,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shares - held as available for sale</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>371,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td>941,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,313,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,762,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other payables</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>816,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term provisions</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>579,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts in Advance</td>
<td></td>
<td>41,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,437,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term provisions</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>45,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>45,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,482,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,279,527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **EQUITY** | |       |
| Reserves | 17,074 | 20,597 |
| Retained Surpluses | 4,262,453 | 4,175,365 |
| **TOTAL EQUITY** | | 4,279,527 | 4,195,962 |
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Available for Sale Reserve</th>
<th>Retained Surpluses</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 1 July 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on available for sale investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus attributable to members of the entity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Available for Sale Reserve</th>
<th>Retained Surpluses</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 1 July 2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on available for sale investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus attributable to members of the entity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:**
- Receipts from customers  
  2,248,346  
- Payments to suppliers and employees  
  (7,405,434)  
- Donations received  
  1,422,132  
- Receipt from grants  
  4,324,805  
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities  
589,849  
324,381

**CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:**
- Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment  
  38,389  
- Proceeds from sale of available-for-sale investments  
  33,302  
- Interest received  
  260,934  
- Purchase of property, plant and equipment  
  (614,729)  
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities  
(282,104)  
5,242,403

**CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:**
- Repayment of borrowings  
  -  
- Net cash used in financing activities  
  -  
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held  
307,745  
3,066,784
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year  
3,901,831  
835,047
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year  
4,209,576  
3,901,831
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

The financial statements are for Spinal Cord Injuries Australia as a not-for-profit individual entity.

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Act 2001.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

(b) Comparative figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(c) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Property

Land and buildings are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Freehold land and buildings that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost are valued and recognised at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the asset.

Plant and equipment that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost are valued and recognised at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including buildings and capitalised leased assets, but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements. Land is not depreciated.
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies  (Cont’d)
   (c) Property, plant and equipment  (Cont’d)

Depreciation  (Cont’d)

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of Fixed Asset</th>
<th>Depreciation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold improvements</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings on leased property</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>10-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The assets’ residual values, depreciation methods and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset’s carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset’s carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the statement of comprehensive income.

(d) Financial instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. For financial assets, this is the equivalent to the date that the company commits itself to either the purchase or sale of the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transactions costs, except where the instrument is classified ‘at fair value through profit or loss’ in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at either fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, or cost. Fair value represents the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm’s length transaction. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Amortised cost is calculated as:

(a) the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition;
(b) less principal repayments;
(c) plus or minus the cumulative amortisation of the difference, if any, between the amount initially recognised and the maturity amount calculated using the effective interest method; and
(d) less any reduction for impairment.
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont'd)
   (d) Financial instruments (Cont'd)

   The effective interest method is used to allocate interest income or interest expense over the relevant period and is equivalent to the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts (including fees, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) through the expected life (or when this cannot be reliably predicted, the contractual term) of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. Revisions to expected future net cash flows will necessitate an adjustment to the carrying value with a consequential recognition of an income or expense in profit or loss.

   The classification of financial instruments depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and at the end of each reporting period for held-to-maturity assets.

   The company does not designate any interest as being subject to the requirements of accounting standards specifically applicable to financial instruments.

   (i) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

   Financial assets are classified at 'fair value through profit or loss' when they are either held for trading for the purpose of short-term profit taking, derivatives not held for hedging purposes, or when they are designated as such to avoid an accounting mismatch or to enable performance evaluation where a group of financial assets is managed by key management personnel on a fair value basis in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy. Such assets are subsequently measured at fair value with changes in carrying value being included in profit or loss.

   (ii) Loans and receivables

   Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

   Loans and receivables are included in current assets, except for those which are not expected to mature within 12 months after the end of the reporting year.

   (iii) Available-for-sale financial assets

   Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivative financial assets that are either not suitable to be classified into other categories of financial assets due to their nature, or they are designated as such by management. They comprise investments in the equity of other entities where there is neither a fixed maturity nor fixed or determinable payments.

   Available-for-sale financial assets are included in non-current assets, except for those which are expected to be sold within 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

   Fair value

   Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.
1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont’d)

(d) Financial instruments (Cont’d)

Impairment

Objective evidence that a financial asset is impaired includes default by a debtor, evidence that the debtor is likely to enter bankruptcy or adverse economic conditions in the stock exchange. At the end of each reporting period, the company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset has been impaired through the occurrence of a loss event. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a significant or prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to indicate that an impairment has arisen.

Where a subsequent event causes the amount of the impairment loss to decrease (e.g. payment received), the reduction in the allowance account (provision for impairment of receivables) is taken through profit and loss.

However, any reversal in the value of an impaired available for sale asset is taken through other comprehensive income rather than profit and loss.

Impairment losses are recognised through an allowance account for loans and receivables in the statement of comprehensive income.

Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the entity no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are either discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying value of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

When available-for-sale investments are sold, the accumulated fair value adjustments recognised in other comprehensive income are reclassified to profit or loss.

(e) Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each reporting year, the company reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset’s fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset’s carrying value. Value in use is either the discounted cash flows relating to the asset or depreciated replacement cost if the criteria in AASB 136 ‘Impairment of Assets’ are met. Any excess of the asset’s carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of comprehensive income.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is debited against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia
ABN: 33 001 263 734

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

1  Summary of Significant Accounting Policies  (Cont'd)

(f)  Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less which are convertible to a known amount of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

(g)  Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(h)  Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

(i)  Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(j)  Leases

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership that are transferred to the company are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for that period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the company will obtain ownership of the asset or over the term of the lease.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

(k)  Revenue and other income

The company recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met for each of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia’s activities as discussed below.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. Any consideration deferred is treated as the provision of finance
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont’d)

(k) Revenue and other income (Cont’d)

and is discounted at a rate of interest that is generally accepted in the market for similar arrangements. The difference between the amount initially recognised and the amount ultimately received is interest revenue.

Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

Grant revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia receives non-reciprocal contributions of assets from the government and other parties for zero or a nominal value. These assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Donations and collections

Collections, donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received. Directors acknowledge cash donations may be misstated due to the inherent nature of these items, however processes have been implemented which mitigates the risk to an acceptably low level.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(l) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont’d)

(m) Critical accounting estimates and judgments

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company.

(n) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards

During the current year, the company adopted all of the new and revised Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations applicable to its operations which became mandatory.

The adoption of these Standards has impacted the recognition, measurement and disclosure of certain transactions. The following is an explanation of the impact the adoption of these Standards and Interpretations has had on the financial statements of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Name</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AASB 1053 Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards and amending standards</td>
<td>The adoption of these standards resulting in the removal of a number of disclosures in the general purpose financial statements in accordance with the Reduced Disclosure Requirements. There was no impact on the reported financial position and performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures and amending standard AASB 2009-12</td>
<td>No significant changes on adoption of this standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AASB 2009-14 Amendments to Australian Interpretation – Prepayments of a Minimum Funding Requirement</td>
<td>No significant changes on adoption of this standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AASB 2010-4 / 2010-5 Amendments and further amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project</td>
<td>No significant changes on adoption of this standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AASB 2010-6 Amendment to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosures on transfers of financial assets</td>
<td>No significant changes on adoption of this standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AASB 2010-9 / Amendment to Australian Accounting Standards – Severe hyperinflation and removal of fixed dates for first-time adopters</td>
<td>No impact since the entity is not a first-time adopter of IFRS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AASB 1054 Additional Australian disclosures / AASB 2011-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Trans-Tasman convergence</td>
<td>Minimal impact since most of the disclosures required by AASB 1054 are already included within the financial statements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Notes to the Financial Statements

**For the Year Ended 30 June 2012**

#### 2 Revenue and Other Income

**Revenue from continuing operations**
- **Sales revenue**
  - Fee income 1,918,488 1,735,744
  - Donations 1,422,132 934,499
  - Interest income 260,934 157,016
  - Residents contribution 91,289 89,669
  - Government subsidies and grants 4,324,805 3,594,686
  **Total Revenue** 8,017,648 6,511,614

**Other revenue**
- Gain on disposal of non-current assets 1,873 236,004
- Sundry income 23,693 15,796
**Total Revenue** 8,043,214 6,763,414

#### 3 Result for the Year

(a) **Expenses**
- Depreciation and Amortisation
  - Amortisation of leasehold improvements 25,310 25,206
  - Depreciation - plant and equipment 95,887 50,239
  - Depreciation - motor vehicles 71,267 39,613
  **Total Depreciation and Amortisation** 192,464 115,148

  - Employee benefits expense 4,189,194 3,645,304

  - Rental expense on operating leases 345,110 267,915

#### 4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

- **Cash on hand** 8,500 7,800
- **Cash at bank**
  4,201,076 3,894,031
**Total Cash and Cash Equivalents** 4,209,576 3,901,831
5 Trade and Other Receivables

CURRENT
Trade receivables 145,881 358,966
Provision for impairment - (5,560)
Other receivables

238,926 459,362

6 Property, Plant and Equipment

Motor vehicles
At cost 534,420 346,042
Accumulated depreciation (98,458) (65,374)
Total motor vehicles 435,962 280,668

Leasehold improvements
At cost 394,583 391,283
Accumulated amortisation (344,351) (319,041)
Total leasehold improvements 50,232 72,242

Plant and equipment
At cost 983,592 669,334
Accumulated depreciation (527,865) (461,644)
Total plant and equipment 455,727 207,690

Total property, plant and equipment 941,921 560,600

(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Motor Vehicles $</th>
<th>Leasdhie Improvements $</th>
<th>Plant and Equipment $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2011</td>
<td>280,668</td>
<td>72,242</td>
<td>207,690</td>
<td>560,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the beginning of year</td>
<td>267,505</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>343,924</td>
<td>614,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>(40,944)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(40,944)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation expense</td>
<td>(71,267)</td>
<td>(25,310)</td>
<td>(95,887)</td>
<td>(192,464)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2012</td>
<td>435,962</td>
<td>50,232</td>
<td>455,727</td>
<td>941,921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7 Trade and Other Payables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade payables</td>
<td>376,609</td>
<td>117,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other payables</td>
<td>439,582</td>
<td>518,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>816,191</td>
<td>635,120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 Provisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee entitlements</td>
<td>579,707</td>
<td>467,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-CURRENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee entitlements</td>
<td>45,487</td>
<td>50,128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 Leasing Commitments

(a) Operating lease commitments

- Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements
- Payable - minimum lease payments:
  - no later than 1 year: 129,422
  - between 1 year and 5 years: 122,711
  - greater than 5 years: 252,133

10 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

In the opinion of the Directors, the company did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2012 (30 June 2011: None).

11 Financial Risk Management

The main risks Spinal Cord Injuries Australia is exposed to through its financial instruments are credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk consisting of interest rate risk and equity price risk.

The company’s financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable, and leases.

The totals for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139 as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

11 Financial Risk Management (Cont’d)
   Financial Assets
   Cash and cash equivalents  4,209,576  3,901,831
   Available-for-sale financial assets:
      - at fair value
         - listed shares in other corporations  371,857  427,083
   Total financial assets  4,581,433  4,328,914
   Financial Liabilities
   Financial liabilities at amortised cost
      - Trade and other payables  816,191  635,120
   Total financial liabilities  816,191  635,120

12 Interests of Key Management Personnel

The total remuneration paid to key management personnel of the company is $934,346 (2011: $871,244).

13 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

The financial report was authorised for issue on 25 October 2012 by the Board of Directors.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

14 Members’ Guarantee

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of $20 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the company. At 30 June 2012 the number of members was 572 (2011: 509).
Financial Statements

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia
ABN: 93 001 263 734

Directors' Declaration

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 7 to 21, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and:
   a. comply with Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements; and
   b. give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2012 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company.

2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director .......................................................... Director ..........................................................
David Brawn Brad O'Hara

Dated 25 October 2012
Spinal Cord Injuries Australia
ABN: 39 001 263 734

Independent Audit Report to the members of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia


We have audited the accompanying financial report of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2012, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors’ declaration.

Directors’ Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards- Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Act 2001 and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In Note 1, the directors also state, in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the company’s preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the directors of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor’s report.
Spinal Cord Injuries Australia
ABN: 33 001 263 734

Independent Audit Report to the members of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia

Opinion

In our opinion:

(a) the financial report of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

(i) giving a true and fair view of the company’s financial position as at 30 June 2012 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and

(ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards- Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and

(b) the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements which describe the revenue recognition policy of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, including the limitations that exist in relation to the recording of cash receipts from collections. Revenue from this source represents a portion of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia overall revenue. Our opinion is unmodified in respect of this matter.

Dated this 26th day of October 2012

Sydney

LAWLER PARTNERS
Chartered Accountants

CLAYTON HICKEY
Partner
Directors gratefully acknowledge financial and material support from:

- Clayton Utz Lawyers
- ASG Group
- Allens Arthur Robinson Charity Committee
- David Perryman Photography
- Slater & Gordon Community Fund
- Simon Marnie
- X Origin
- Edith Cowan University
- University of Sydney
- JA Wales Printing
- Victoria University
- Ricoh Australia
- The Creative Zoo
- The Roth Charitable Foundation
- The Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Sport and Recreation Association of Queensland Inc.
- Australian Government Department of Families Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)
- Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
- NSW Department of Human Services - Ageing Disability and Home Care
- NSW Department of Health
- NSW Department of Housing
- NSW Department of Transport and Infrastructure
- Rosalind Nicholson Trust
- Slater and Gordon Lawyers
- All Members, Donors, Fundraisers and those who support our ideals and efforts.