





President's Message



Dr Shane Clifton
Roard President

While spinal cord injuries and neurological conditions confront us with loss, grief, and pain, I am always encouraged by our membership's resilience, determination, and creativity.

I joined the board at the end of 2021 and greatly appreciate the opportunity to learn from people with wide-ranging knowledge, skills and experience. The board includes several members with lived expertise in spinal cord injury and experts in management, finance, policy, law, marketing and research. The leadership and employees of SCIA are also an extremely skilled and determined group of people, passionate about the well-being of people with spinal cord injury and neurological conditions. SCIA is in excellent hands. Given the conditions of the last few years, it has needed to be.

COVID has continued to impact our community. Some of us lost friends and family to the virus. Lockdowns and the understandable caution of our membership in returning to their pre-Covid lives affected our core business and finances. Our team has had to make strategic and creative decisions to survive so the organisation remains financially healthy. While we made a financial loss in 2021/22, the budget for the forthcoming financial year looks strong and is on track.

More than just surviving, SCIA continues to expand its offerings in line with our mission. This year we launched two free resilience programs designed to help people adjust to disability and enhance their well-being. The Engage program is a 10-week online discussion group assisting participants in refocusing on joy, gain a clearer sense of personal direction, and work out how to flourish with disability. The Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) helps participants identify simple, safe and effective tools to create and maintain wellness and to improve daily life.

Engage and WRAP sit alongside the excellent work done in our other programs, such as Peer Support and NeuroMoves exercise. As a beneficiary of these programs myself, I can't overstate the value of their contribution to our recovery.

The challenges we face with spinal cord injury and neurological conditions are not just medical and physical. The social model of disability says that we are too often disabled by a social environment that excludes us, including inaccessible homes, buildings and public places. Too many of our members live with financial and other hardships. Our Advocacy and Policy team fight on our behalf to change the physical and social world to make it more accessible, as do our NDIS and Employment support services.

SCIA will continue its core mission of creating a world where people with spinal and neuro conditions and their loved ones can thrive. To do so, we are listening to our members to see what more we can do to help them live well.

Message from CEO and Chairman







Michael Rabbitt
Chairman

In the last financial year we continued to live with the impacts of COVID-19 and our Lismore NeuroMoves service, Alstonville Community Services and Advocacy teams were all unfortunately affected by the floods. Our largest service, NeuroMoves, was affected the most which resulted in significant financial loss. The year end result was not favourable however was a direct result of COVID as there was no financial support from government in the second half of the financial year. Swift action was taken by the Board and Executive to reduce the financial impact with the implementation of a new structure and expenditure limited to essential expenses only.

The organisations largest cost is that of its skilled and dedicated staff. In our efforts to make the organisation sustainable we have had to ask a number of staff to leave. This has been done with great reluctance and sadness. On behalf of our members we would like to thank the departing staff for their service and wish them well in their future endeavours.

After extensive consultation and collaboration with our members we have now finalised and approved SCIA's first Membership Strategy for implementation over the next three years. The new strategy will ensure we prioritise and provide support, information and services focussed on our members.

SCIA was successful in receiving funding through the NSW Government for a new advocacy service. The service is focussed on supporting people living with spinal and neurological conditions, their carers and family members to build their capacity and capability to advocate on issues that impact them and their ability to meet their goals. This service commenced in the second half of 2021/22 and is called Disability Representative Advocacy. Early participation numbers are high and we are excited to see it develop and grow across NSW.

Technology is critical to the ongoing sustainability of an organisation and our upgraded technology allowed us to continue to support our clients and members as we worked from home. We are proud of our technology achievements in the last 12 months which most notably include:

- · Phase one transition to a new Client Relationship Management (CRM) system
- · Built enhanced cyber security frameworks and extensive staff training programs

Further upgrades have been prioritised and will deliver cost efficiencies which will be fully realised and return the organisation to a financially sustainable position by the end of 2022/23.

A special mention needs to be made regarding our staff. They have maintained a strong focus, progressing our organisational strategy and delivering the best support to our clients and members whilst managing the twists and turns of COVID restrictions. A very big thanks go to all staff for their ongoing commitment to SCIA and our purpose. We are both inspired by their passion for the work we do.

We feel positive about our future and are confident in the actions we have taken and will continue to take in 2022/23, so SCIA maintains its focus and builds a financially sustainable organisation.

Our Strategy

This financial year brought us to the end of our 3 year strategy. The pandemic was still in force and in addition a number of teams were impacted by natural disasters. Throughout, we continued to work towards our goals delivering positive outcomes for our organisation and community.

Purpose

To create a world where people with spinal/neuro conditions and their loved ones thrive

Deliver a better today



Freedom to choose

We will be the most trusted partner to support clients to achieve their goals and make the most of their money in their NDIS plan.



A place to call home

Smoothen clients transition from the hospital to the home.



Meaningful Work

Deliver flexible services that employ & connect people with a spinal/ neuro condition.



Care for my Wellbeing

Be recognised as the most innovative exercise therapy service.

Build a better Tomorrow





Create an inclusive future

Be the peak body for people with SCI in Australia, advocating for an inclusive world.



Pioneer the evidence

Build and share the collective SCI wisdom to protect, support and guide our members and clients.

Enablers

Smart Tech & Data

We will equip our people with the right tools and information to deliver flawless service.

Compassionate **Talent**

We are on a mission to enhance our peoples capability, to match their can do attitudes.

Collaborative **Partnerships**

We can't do it alone and will partner with those who have both the technical chops and collaborative mindset.

Our **Spaces**

We will create welcoming spaces for our people, partners and clients to thrive in.

Our Footprint



Aligning core areas of impact to the UN Sustainable Development Goals means SCIA can ensure that the work we do is contributing to a sustainable future.

SCIA is committed to an equitable Australia that recognises the significant contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples on whose lands we live and work.

This last year we launched our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and started on the journey of learning and listening.

Our leadership team have enjoyed participating in cultural competence training and learning more about the important process of Reconciliation. Training will be rolled out to all employees in 2022/23 committing SCIA to becoming a culturally safe organisation.

SCIA has been looking at procurement to move towards greater environmental sustainability making the switch to more sustainable products where possible and continuing to encourage employees to switch to sustainable solutions in the home through information sharing.

SCIA is a diverse organisation, over 22% of our employees and 70% of our Board have a disability. To further promote diversity, we continued to support the Human Rights Commission 'Racism. It Stops with Me' Campaign as well as Wear It Purple Day.

This June, with our technology provider Cubesys, we launched a fun interactive internal impact measurement process to track our progress towards achieving social impact. A quarter of our employees have already signed up to participate.

Our People

The last year was marked by long lockdowns in our two biggest states. Staff in our face-to-face teams had to adapt to additional COVID-19 safe working practices and on-going challenges with staff requiring time off as the lockdowns ended and COVID-19 infection became more prevalent in the community.

Our staff have remained resilient and positive over this period and have continued to work hard to provide uninterrupted service to our clients.

To support our staff through this period of uncertainty, we continued with our annual Health and Wellbeing Program, providing staff with interactive on-line sessions covering stress management, meditation, financial wellbeing, and vicarious trauma.

As well as this, we offered our staff Mental Health First Aid training and seminars on Communicating with Confidence which included topics such as active listening, assertiveness and dealing with difficult people.

In our annual staff survey, we were pleased to see that despite the challenges of the year, our overall staff engagement score was 75%, which was 5% higher than the community services industry average.

The implementation of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) technology has enabled SCIA to refine our structures and processes. As the organisation has streamlined and consolidated, our operations staff head count numbers have slightly decreased from 195 in June 2021 to 186 in June 2022. Our disability employment statistics remain very high with 22.4% of our staff living with a disability.

Our Members

We initiated the implementation of the Membership Strategy this year commencing with the onboarding of members into our organisation.

This is a key moment of truth as it's the first experience and welcome individuals have as members.

We continue to engage directly with our existing membership to co-collaborate and ensure that their voice is reflected in the design.



The three areas that were the highest rated in the staff survey

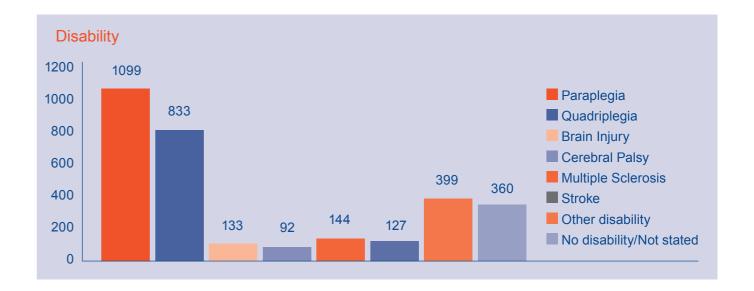
Working through COVID 40% 60% 95% Overall Satisfaction

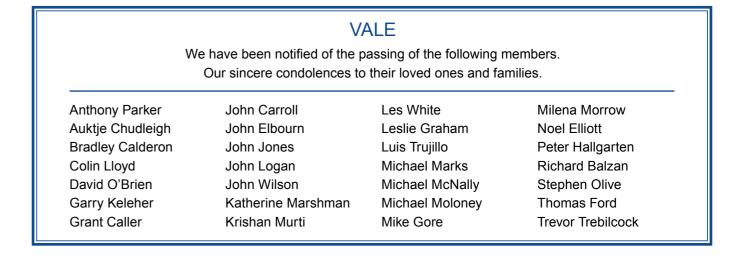
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Selected Highlights of the Year

Our Team



Women make up 63% of our leadership team

Community Services

387 Plan Management Clients



35 Occasional & Emergency **Services Clients**



14,067 Support Coordination hours delivered to clients



Advocacy

Of advocacy clients surveyed said they were more confident to advocate for themselves following SCIA's advocacy support.



331,091 minutes

spent on Advocacy

351 individual and family clients

In the last financial year, our Individual, Family and Appeals advocates spent 5518 hours helping our clients. This includes attending to 351 advocacy issues and 219

information enquiries

Our Members



an increase of 8% 40% female vs **60%** male

EmployAbility



participants with



gaining employment through the program

Peer and Family Support

178 clients helped in the spinal injury units



180 Clients in the community

> 71 Telehealth sessions

> > 8

NeuroMoves

800 Clients treated a month 38,970 hours delivered



Hydrotherapy has been rolled out to all of our NeuroMoves locations, delivering 618 hours to our clients

Program & Service Highlights

Peer and Family Support

The Peer and Family Support Program has gone from strength to strength in the past year.

As we move out of the COVID-19 lockdowns and welcome a team restructure, the program is now helping more clients and members than ever before with significant growth and development in both Sydney spinal injury units and community areas.

Recent partnerships with Physical Disability Council of New South Wales (PDCN) in Lismore, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle and Port Kembla Hospital in the Illawarra region has meant that the footprint of peer support services is expanding and reaching a new cohort of clients in regional areas, clients that really benefit from our lived experience.

With a new customer relationship management system (CRM) in place and better software availability, we can now measure the impact peer support is making to clients and their families. The service has been fully evaluated by an independent research organisation and the results are extremely positive.

With this valuable information we can look at opportunities to develop, and ultimately deliver, a world-class service to all our clients in the future.

Knowing how the Peer and Family Support team across NSW, ACT and WA are impacting our clients lives is really important to us. It is our way of understanding the needs of people with a spinal cord injury and offering the right knowledge and skills to build their confidence and independence. It is a toolkit for life.

As we look to the future, we are constantly reminded that it is the little things after an injury that have the biggest impact on clients wellbeing. Building resilience through inclusion is what we aim to do every single day, but we can't do this alone. Collaborations with likeminded partners are the key to successful initiatives and we are lucky to work with the likes of icare, Coloplast, The Sargood Foundation and Permobil to name a few. Collectively, the Peer and Family Support Team strive to enable people with a spinal cord injury to move forward and lead fulfilling lives rich with positive experiences.

It is critical that we expand our service in areas that have the greatest need. As funding opportunities arise and collaborations with partners grow, we strive to offer the best program that we can.

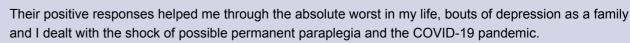
Our Peer and Family Support Impact

David Larbalesteir

"My first memory of meeting Jason and Ben from SCIA in 2021 was a couple of days after being admitted to Royal North Shore spinal unit from Norwest Private Hospital in Bella Vista after a staph infection caused SCI T4 paraplegia. I was flat on my back and suffering from some delirium, due to medication.

Jason and Ben seemed so content even though they had suffered paraplegia and were confident in being in a wheelchair. Their attitude was infectious and I remember them saying, 'You can ask us anything you want'.

I did and received honest answers.



Both Jason and Ben are not only great listeners, but also display empathy, understanding and an ability to lead by example. Both put their heart and soul into their work.

A huge thank you to all members of the SCIA Peer and Family Support team, whom I have subsequently met. This team deserves all the support possible to carry on their essential work."

Transitional Housing

The Short Term Accommodation has been a breath of fresh air for many clients and their families over the past year.

Whilst not only providing much needed respite for clients, it also allows families to come together in a beautifully designed house where they can have fun and relax away from the stresses of their injury. Over the last year the house has benefited from some improvements including upgrades to the interior and exterior of the property and many people have commented on how accessible and well maintained the property is. One client said, "This home has given a deep sense of normalisation in regard to disability".

Over 20 clients have stayed at our property. Even through COVID restrictions, the house has been a welcome retreat. Not only does the house provide people with the tools to become more independent through skills and education, it has a pool and equipped gym for those who would like to keep fit during their stay.

Complementing their visit is the ability to speak with our friendly Peer and Family Support Coordinators who are always happy to talk about any current issues clients may be facing with their spinal injury. They can also assist in the community with things like public transport.

The Transition House in WA remains a valuable resource with many clients commenting that without the house they would not be able to complete medical appointments or spend time with loved ones. The house is really making a big impact on the lives of people with a spinal cord injury, so much so that clients are returning more frequently to utilise the house.

SCIA will continue to offer this fabulous service to those people who really need it and benefit from the house. It is wonderful to see happy smiling faces during times of real hardship.



Program & Service Highlights

Our Transition House Impact

The Irinwindie Family

The Irwindie family from Geraldton in Western Australia, hadn't been on a holiday since their two sons were born. Both sons have complex disabilities, and the family were excited about the accessibility to the pool and are keen to return in the summer months to test it out.

Isma, the eldest child had his 14th birthday party at our Transition House with his family and friends.

We're grateful that our Transition House can help make moments like these happen.



The Bunker Family

"The house was absolutely fantastic! It was so very well equipped, clean and in a great location.

Mum and Dad really enjoyed their stay and were very impressed with the amount of thought that had gone into every aspect of the house, right down to the kettle and kitchen utensils!

Lachlan was extremely helpful and we really appreciated him being there when they arrived and to take delivery and pick up of the standing hoist mum needed for her stay.

They will definitely be back again."



EmployAbility

The last financial year has been a very successful and productive one for EmployAbility.

Funded through an ILC Grant, we engaged a working group of 13 people to assist us with the development of an online job search skills training course which is supported by employment coaches who also have lived experience of a disability.

We are pleased by the achievements we have made during the first 12 months of our training program and can see momentum building. Participant numbers for the first year was 35 people and 10 of these people have gained employment with an additional two people securing volunteer positions as a result of their participation in the program.

Some encouraging highlights from exit surveys conducted, and the impact our EmployAbility service has, showed that:

- 100% of participants reported that they felt more prepared to search for work, had a finished CV and felt greater confidence in being able to sell their skills to a potential employer
- · Personal satisfaction in life has increased in all areas.

EmployAbility has continued to place people with disability-friendly employment partners and employer interest is high.

Acusensus has remained one of key employer partners. Managing Director Alex Jannink said, "Our partnership with SCIA's EmployAbility service has provided us with outstanding team members who have excelled in their roles. Through their life experiences they have strengthened the diversity of our workforce and our competitive advantage."

Other key recruitment partners include HireUp and Macquarie Bank (MySAS). In addition to the 10 people who found employment through our program, our recruitment service has been able to place seven people into advertised positions.

We have a number of new employer partners coming on board and are very excited about the future of EmployAbility.

Our EmployAbility Impact

Camoror

Cameron described himself as a "workaholic", who spent up to 60 to 80 hours a week managing his own bread run. In 2006, this all changed after he dived into a shallow wave and sustained a C5/6 spinal cord injury which resulted in quadriplegia.

In the years after, Cameron was unsure about re-entering the workforce. Having spent his career working in hands-on, physical roles Cameron said "I didn't know what I could do or how I could do it. That's where EmployAbility opened my eyes."

After completing the program, Cameron was matched with one of our employer partners. Within five months he has progressed to a supervisory position within the organisation and has described his new role as being "absolutely incredible".

"Being part of the workforce is very rewarding in itself. Being employed has definitely given me purpose and passion again. I've met teammates, I have built friendships and now have surplus income as opposed to living from week to week."



NeuroMoves

Despite the obvious effects of COVID-19, our NeuroMoves service has had a productive 2021-2022.

We have seen an increase in client numbers, additional NeuroMoves locations, new team members, and most importantly, an increase of clients continuing to achieve their goals.

Of this, NeuroMoves has seen a 23% increase in client numbers now totalling 800 clients treated each month, with a total of 38,970 hours of therapy delivered.

Our clients present with over 60 different neurological conditions, which allow our staff to continue to be highly skilled and experienced in treating our diverse community.



Our most prevalent conditions are Spinal Cord Injuries, Stroke, brain injuries, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Sclerosis. However, we have seen an increase in other conditions such as Spina Bifida and Parkinson's Disease.

To help accommodate the growth in our client numbers, we opened a satellite facility in Hove, South Australia. This is the first of several new satellite sites that NeuroMoves is opening around the country to help expand our reach to more individuals.

Alongside this, we have also expanded the range of services on offer at our locations. Hydrotherapy was initially only offered at our Angle Park site in South Australia, but we have expanded this to all locations. The benefits and impact of this program have been significant for all those involved.

David Prast Achievement Award

In honour of David Prast, who is responsible for beginning NeuroMoves (previously Walk On) we launched the David Prast Achievement Award in 2021.

Joint funded by SCIA and SpinalCure, this annual award is in honour and recognition of the incredible contribution David Prast made to the spinal cord injury community. It provides an outstanding and dedicated NeuroMoves therapist a generous professional development opportunity to develop their skills in innovative practice and to improve the outcomes for individuals with spinal cord injury.

Our NeuroMoves Impact

Donna

NeuroMoves Lismore client, Donna, has Arachnoiditis Ossificans. A progressive degenerative disease that affects her movement capacity and balance.

She has been attending our in-clinic sessions since 2019, doing one-on-one therapy and weekly gym sessions. Once our Lismore site began hydrotherapy as part of the service, Donna introduced hydrotherapy as part of her program and hasn't looked back since!

After feeling the benefits and freedom of movement she experienced in the water she can work at a higher intensity than she was able to when undertaking the other programs. Donna has reported that she can move more freely, can sustain a better posture, her pain levels are reduced and feels they have been instrumental in her improvements in everyday activities.





"After a stroke in 2020 I was suggested to take up with another NDIS company. I was given the amazing chance to switch to SCIA. That's when an angel called Nicole Mathias came into my life.

Nothing I can say can explain how much she has done for me. If I'm crying she is there to hold my hand, going through the floods she achieved, and still is doing more for me than my insurance company or Government has.

Anything I need I know she is always there. Not just for principal items I need, but to help me understand things I need help with.

I feel it a privilege to have Nicole helping me through this difficult time. Being displaced I always know I have her to help and support me. Thank you, Nicole, I can't put into words how much your help and support have meant to me."

Jennifer Lang

Policy and Advocacy

Our Policy and Advocacy team looks a little different this year. We have Individual, NDIS Appeals, Systemic and Representative Advocacy teams spanning from Sydney to Northern Rivers in New South Wales, creating a clearer pathway for supports to SCIA members and the greater community.

Individual Advocacy

The last financial year has had great ups and downs.

Our Alstonville team in Northern Rivers, New South Wales were unable to work from the office for weeks due to the floods.

Staff were unable to travel, the internet was down, flood waters washed away everything from grocery stores, petrol stations to homes. Everything was gone.

Despite this, our staff were able to continue working remotely, help with the cleanup and continue assisting clients.

Many lives were affected, some still to this day.

Donna, our Business Support Officer in Northern

Rivers said, "The support that we received from all
the SCIA family was quite overwhelming and made
it easier to return to some sort of normal."

NDIS Appeals Advocacy

Our newly formed NDIS AAT Appeals Advocacy team supported 69 clients in the last financial year.

Most of the support given by our advocates (80%) is centered around funding cuts to existing NDIS plans. As this process can take up to two years of very complex appeal processes, some of our cases are still in progress, however most were settled prior to their hearing and in the participant's favour.

The remaining 20% of our casework has been in relation to access requirements. Of these cases, we have seen 100% success rate.

Program & Service Highlights

Systemic Advocacy

Since the change of government, we have sent out letters to federal ministers in key portfolio areas, including Disability and NDIS, Health and Aged Care to seek support and meet with them about issues important to our members.

We've participated in consultations and written submissions across the NDIS, aged care reforms, stage two reforms of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport, Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation against people with disability, and the development of a new National Disability Advocacy Framework.

Continuing from the survey to members on getting access to Medical Imaging and Womens Health Services, we have written to state and federal health and disability ministers informing them of the survey outcomes and the significant lack of access. Alongside this, we have written a submission to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care which is reviewing the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Standards to raise a lack of access and support for people with disability.

Advocacy has continued for wheelchair accessible taxis (WAT) with the team meeting with the NSW ministers and within the NSW Taxi Council WAT Subcommittee regarding the timely access to WATs.

The team has been keenly participating in consultations with the ongoing aged care reforms in response to the Royal Commission recommendations and the development of the new Support at Home program that will commence July 2024. We have been advocating for full support of people with disability over the age of 65, including comprehensive assistive technology coverage.

Representative Advocacy

This is an exciting new area for SCIA to develop over the next financial year as part of our community and membership engagement.

Preparation is underway for regular Online SCIA Network Forums and topic-based workshop development.

We are also looking to establish regular peer led meetings.

Our Advocacy Impact

A mother and her son wanted to gain access to the NDIS. The family of two moved to the Northern Rivers region during the pandemic after escaping domestic violence.

Feeling isolated and alone, the mother reached out to our Advocacy service for help.

Her son (8) has a physical disability has been declined from the NDIS twice before SCIA came on board to help. Working closely with local community health Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapists and other specialists, our advocates were able to successfully seek NDIS approval.

Next, our advocates focused on the mother who has a psychosocial disability that required a different approach. With our help, the mother was guided one step at a time to encourage her not to feel too overwhelmed by the complex NDIS process.

It took six months, and countless setbacks, to gather and prove a 20-year history of the psychosocial disability before she was granted access. Her first plan includes significant Continuity of Support (CoS) funding, which will be instrumental in making sure they engage with local service providers.

The mother recently said, "My life has vastly improved since gaining access to the NDIS. SCIA advocacy is such an amazing service. I am grateful for my advocate being able to explain things in simpler terms and help me and my son gain access to the NDIS."

You can read more stories of change from SCIA's Policy and Advocacy team in our Monthly Updates. Visit https://scia.org.au/policy-and-advocacy-monthly-update-2022/.

Community Services

This last financial year saw challenges that has tested us and brought our community together in ways we hadn't seen before.

Amongst the turmoil of the ongoing effects of COVID-19, we experienced the profound impact of floods in the Northern Rivers on our clients and our offices.

Our Support Coordination and Plan Management teams worked tirelessly to support our clients who found themselves without access to services, equipment or assistive technology that they need. Alongside this, we were supporting our clients, who lost their homes altogether, to find emergency accommodation.

Despite the turmoil, our Support Coordination service has continued to grow both in our existing offices and interstate.

In June 2022, we began offering Support Coordination in Melbourne, Victoria. An exciting venture that, previously, was put on hold due to the pandemic. Our Support Coordination and Plan Management services exist locally in our offices based in the Melbourne CBD and we are excited to see this area grow and thrive like its NSW counterparts.

We have committed to reinstating our Occasional and Emergency Service. The day service and the service continues to operate per normal, however SCIA is currently reviewing the program and considering a design that better suits the needs of organisation whilst meeting the needs of our clients – watch this space.

We continue to support clients over 65 years who do not have access to NDIS funding through our government funding, and we're excited to see more clients join the service. Our intention is to market this more broadly in the 2022/23 financial year so that people can take up the benefit of a free service supporting them in home with the Community Nursing team.

Our Community Service Impact

Jimmy Jan

Jimmy Jan does not let his SCI impact his everyday life. He is currently a third year medical student at Newcastle University on his way to becoming a doctor.

We managed to get Specialist Disability
Accommodation in the beautiful Stella
Apartments in Newcastle. A one-bedroom
apartment and vehicle modifications to allow him
the ability to live as independently as possible.
Prior to his injury, he was living in his van,
travelling around the ski fields, and studying.
Now he's balancing university life, all the while
returning to the ski fields where he had his injury.

Jimmy spent his first year post-injury anniversary trialling an adaptive sit ski for him to continue to follow his competitive "living life to the max" adventure lifestyle and possibly trialling for a professional team - such exciting times to come with this young man and it is a pleasure to be a part of his journey.

We are currently in the process of getting him a sit to stand wheelchair so he can complete the surgical placement of his degree and hopefully he will purchase his own as he continues to follow his dream of becoming a doctor.

With over 644,000 followers on TikTok, it has been exciting to watch him become an influencer and be a part of his social media journey as he educates people on a global scale about living with a spinal cord injury.



Program & Service Highlights

Resilience and Inclusion

This year we launched our Resilience and Inclusion Services. These include two peer-led programs called Engage and Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP). These group-based programs are free to our community to help our members build resilience, personal wellness, meaning and purpose in life.

The Engage Program, initially developed by Hammond Care in partnership with SCIA and funded through icare, is a ten-week online program. From October 2021 to April 2022, we supported 14 participants in a facilitated environment to explore the idea of post traumatic growth and opportunities for finding improved meaning and purpose. In April 2022, SCIA took over the delivery of the Engage program.

WRAP is an evidence-based peer led program that helps people to identify tools that keep them well. We make it available to clients, members and their families. This past financial year, three SCIA employees were upskilled and trained to be additional facilitators for WRAP. The program runs online over eight weeks and guides participants in the creation of action plans for everyday life.

Our Resilience Program Impact

We held two quarterly Engage Alumni events sharing new content and providing a safe space for past participants to connect. In feedback given, we found participants were overwhelmingly positive and they said it is extremely likely they would recommend the program and particularly focused on the benefits of learning from people in a similar situation.





"I just loved the connection with other people with a spinal cord injury. We were very different people with different levels of injury, but we connected with each other.

I realised that I had become quite socially isolated even though I have a husband. Getting out there now and engaging with other people with disabilities is where I need to go.

I need to get out of my comfort zone now and try new things."

Resilience Program participant

Our Supporters

Diversifying and significantly growing our fundraising income is a strategic imperative for SCIA to secure the sustainability of our existing services, and to expand our reach and impact nationally.

We achieved pleasing progress in FY22, with improved funding support secured across Government, philanthropy and the community. We established stronger foundations with the development of a Board Fundraising Committee and a new CRM to help us manage and grow donors and supporters.

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia achieved strong results from our grant submissions this year, securing funding to continue our Advocacy services, to develop our EmployAbility service, and to expand proven services to more locations. Grant funding is important as it sustains a number of our services and allows us to develop opportunities that would not otherwise be progressed.

A number of our key services receive little funding from grants or the NDIS. Services such as our Peer and Family Support Team is a critical service that is largely self-funded and primarily rely on generous contributions from our donors and supporters.

We're investing in our fundraising capability and we have an ambitious goal to grow our fundraising income by \$5 million over the next 5 years to ensure that we can help many more people who urgently need our support.

Our particular focus for the next financial year is to grow our Major Gifts and Corporate Partnerships.

We are so grateful to our donors and supporters for their commitment and support which allows SCIA to help so many clients and families that would otherwise be left unsupported.

Highlights from our fundraising activities

Be a Hero 2021

We had plenty of activity and fun with our third year of Be a Hero, including our amazing heroes like Gabby Vassallo who rode her bike on rollers in the loungeroom for 1200 minutes. This was significant for Gabby as it equated to 100 minutes for every year since a bike accident which resulted in a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and spinal cord injury (SCI), and Tannia Smith, who has the muscular skeletal condition, Athrogryphosis. Tannia wedge climbed, with the help of our NeuroMoves St Peters therapists through the month of September. She utilised Be a Hero to not only help raise funds for our NeuroMoves sites, but build her core strength to enable her to turn unassisted when she is in bed of a night.

However, we experienced a subdued fundraising result of \$39,000 due to the impact COVID-19 combined with the law of diminishing returns taught us that Be a Hero needs to be more than an internal campaign reliant on the efforts of our staff and clients.

We will reshape Be a Hero in 2022, target corporate supporters and client champions and implementing a much stronger social media campaign.

It will help kickstart our drive for corporate partnerships which is a key focus for our broader fundraising efforts. In 2023 we will then broaden the Be a Hero proposition from our NeuroMoves service to becoming our whole of organisation annual campaign.



Our Supporters

The James Galvin Foundation

The James Galvin Foundation has again generously donated \$25,000 to help fund our Peer and Family Support team in Perth, Western Australia.

This continued support from James Galvin Foundation is critical as it helps us to establish a Peer & Family Support footprint in Perth from which we can grow and become sustainable.

We have seen significantly greater demand and need than our current resourcing can service, and we are working on the partnerships and funding that will allow us to establish a comprehensive Community Peer and Family Support service in Perth.

The James Galvin Foundation

Major Donors

Significant contributions from our Major Donors continue to support our sustainability and underwrite those services that do not benefit from grant or NDIS funding.

In particular, we would like to acknowledge the continued generosity and support received from Anne and Phillip Currie and their long-time friend Beverley Cumpston. We will work closely with Anne, Phillip and Beverley to agree where these funds can make the biggest possible impact.

Phillip Currie has also recently agreed to become an external member on our Fundraising Committee, and we look forward to and greatly appreciate the further support that he will provide.



Community Fundraiser - Murray Pearce

Murray broke his neck diving into a river when he was 16, fracturing his C6. He spent a year recovering from his injury.

It was very fortunate for Murray that he was able to recover from his injury. However, his experience gave him an understanding of the physical and mental health challenges faced by people who experience spinal cord injury and left him keen to help others who experience the life-changing impact of a spinal cord injury.

In August 2021, Murray ran more than a marathon each day to complete his running challenge of 400 kilometres from Barwon Heads to Myrtleford in Victoria in 9 days. This was an amazing effort and Murray was pleased to report that his body held up well other than a swollen ankle from shin splints.

His friends and family helped him raise \$21,045 in support of his running challenge, with the proceeds donated equally to Spinal Cord Injuries Australia and Beyond Blue.

Thanks so much Murray!

Our Supporters

Community Fundraiser – Lily Mackett

Lily was hit by a speeding car in 2016 while crossing the road, resulting in a TBI and an SCI that resulted in paraplegia and reduced right arm function.

She's made incredible progress in her rehabilitation and was keen to raise funds for our Peer and Family Support service. She, and her family, didn't have the benefit of peer support after her accident and didn't want others left behind having to "bumble their way through what is already an incredibly difficult situation in the same way".

Lily's March Marathon saw Lily complete a 42.2 km marathon on her FES machine.

Additionally, 174 other participants took up her challenge to complete 42.2 km of their chosen activity.

Lily's March Marathon raised over \$13,000. You and your family are amazing!





Gifts in Wills

An important way that people can support our work is to consider leaving a gift in their Will.

Many people support us this way, including supporters like Yvonne "Vonnie" Jones, who decided to help SCIA by leaving a generous gift in her will.

Yvonne was passionate about many causes in her lifetime and her will supported a number of charities including Spinal Cord Injuries Australia. She felt that gifting in her will was the best way to leave a legacy that would have impact and continue to benefit the causes that she was passionate about long after she was gone.

Sadly, Yvonne passed away this year. Gwen, Yvonne's cousin and one of her closest friends, reflected on Yvonne's life, "We are grateful for the giving nature of Vonnie, she looked after our family and the charities that were close to her heart. We will miss her generous spirit and good humour."

Supporters like Yvonne make a huge difference to our capacity to serve clients and ensure that they can live their best lives. If you are interested in information on leaving a gift in your will please contact giftsinwill@scia.org.au.



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Our Partners and Funders

Key Partners

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia strives to engage and work with organisations that share similar values, vision and culture and we pride ourselves on creating tailored mutually beneficial partnerships. We believe this will lead to the best outcomes for our community and will give us the best chance to facilitate real change.

We are extremely grateful to these organisations who support our services.

























































































PORT KEMBLA HOSPITAL



Funder Acknowledgement

We extend our warmest thanks to our valued funder for their support during the year.

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia secured the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) funding under the National Disability Scheme (NDIS) to embark on an exciting initiative that will enhance our online information resource platform, and introduce modern channels of delivering information through videos and podcasts.

Board of Directors



Shane Clifton, President

Shane is Assistant Director, Policy, Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation against People with Disability, Co-lead, developer and researcher, Hammondcare, for Engage, Exploring meaning and purpose after spinal cord injury, and Honorary Associate, Centre for Disability Research and Policy, the Faculty of Health Sciences, the University of Sydney.

An ethicist and disability scholar, Shane's interests lie in exploring themes around the flourishing of people with spinal cord injury and other disabilities. Shane lives with quadriplegia.



Stewart Calderwood

Stewart's corporate background is in the finance sector and he has more than 25 years' experience in London and Australia, currently with Ord Minnett. Stewart brings to SCIA client relationship management experience across a wide range of institutional and corporate clients. Stewart became involved with the Back Up Trust, a UK charity, after a diving accident left him temporarily paralysed.



Chris Nicholls

Chris owns and manages an accessibility consultancy, occupational therapy service, and a start-up rehabilitation platform that utilises sensor technology. He has also held numerous management roles and worked at SCIA for ten years, has a background in IT, and is a current Board Member at Wheelchair Sports NSW. Chris is a T6 paraplegic after a motorcycle accident.



Leesa Addison

Leesa is a digital product and business transformation consultant, former Chief Information Officer and senior executive with 25 years' experience working in technology and innovation.

She has worked as a CIO for both membership and disability organisations, with broad experience working across all types of business structures and sizes. She assists organisations to identify and develop new products and solutions and builds technology environments focussed on transforming business models, operating environments and managing enterprise risk.



Michelina Pelosi

Michelina has worked in a variety of roles and industries from administration to marketing and in recent years also training and public speaking. Michelina has owned her own bridal business and worked for organisations including Qantas, SC Johnson, TAFE NSW, PBF Australia and more recently Total Ability and SDA Liveable Homes. Michelina has also worked for SCIA providing peer support.

Michelina has travelled extensively promoting a lived experience to empower and encourage people with disability to live a life unbroken. She sustained a L2/T12 spinal cord injury following a motor vehicle accident in 1989.



Michael Rabbitt, Chairman

Michael has an extensive corporate career in the insurance industry at IAG and NRMA, which gives him a strong understanding of the needs of member-based organisations. His wealth of experience includes managing profitable portfolios, leading teams of people and developing and implementing strategy. Michael became a paraplegic as a result of a compensable work accident in 1992.



Paul Crake

Paul is the Director of Total Ability Pty Ltd, which supports people in the disability community with all aspects of driving and vehicular access. Through his previous role at KPMG he has in-depth knowledge of industry funding arrangements, working with the NDIS both from a participant and provider viewpoint, and developing viable business models in the Australian disability space. Paul became a T4 paraplegic after being blown from his racing bike into a fence post during a cycling race in New Zealand in 2006.



George Panos

George is the CEO of Mcgregor Coxall, multi-disciplinary design firm. He has extensive business, commercial and operational experience across several industries. George previously worked for companies such as PwC, CSR, GUD group and Boral. He is a qualified accountant, lawyer and has completed an MBA.



Glen Davis

Glen Davis is Professor of Clinical Exercise Sciences at the University of Sydney, where he is also Director of the Clinical Exercise and Rehabilitation Unit within the Sydney School of Health Sciences. His main research and innovation activities are to deploy novel assistive technologies, surveillance technologies and other medical devices to clinical populations to improve 'dose-potency' of exercise for health, fitness and functional outcomes in these populations. He has a particular focus on the use of functional electrical stimulation (FES) and robotic technologies, including neuroprostheses, for individuals with spinal cord injury and stroke, to improve their quality of life.



David Ham

David is owner operator of "Nundi", an 850 Ha wool-growing property located at Oberne Creek in NSW. He is a high functioning incomplete quadriplegic following a bicycle accident in 2017 resulting in a spinal cord injury to C3/C4.

He has strong interests in sailing his International Flying Dutchman Class dinghy and continues cycling on a recumbent tricycle. He is also the deputy captain of the local RFS brigade.

David has a particular interest in the challenges facing people living with disability in regional Australia.

Clinical Governance and Research Committee

In 2020, Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) established a Clinical Governance and Research Committee (CGCR) comprising of academics, clinicians, and people with lived experience to advise on research initiatives and clinical services.

The CGCR meet quarterly to review research opportunities and oversees the Research Corner webpage on SCIA's website.

Over the last financial year we have promoted 12 research studies, of which three have been supported and one has been funded.

These opportunities have helped our community become more actively involved in research that directly impacts their lives.

Our Clinical Governance Impact

 SCIA co-funded a three year research project in collaboration with the University of Sydney (USYD) and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) to investigate the current physical activity levels

- of persons with a spinal cord injury (SCI), while exploring what barriers individuals regularly face to participate in exercise and any motivators for physical activity on a national-level survey.
- We are also excited to be involved in Project Spark, a partnership with NeuRA, SpinalCure Australia and CatWalk NZ that looks at improving upper and lower limb function through transcutaneous stimulation for persons with a spinal cord injury.
 Big thanks to comedian Tommy Little for his excellent fundraising to support this research.
- In partnership with UTS and Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN), over 200 people shared their opinions on the suitability of current design features for accessible bathrooms. Something very important to our members. This research will ultimately lead to improved accessibility in public bathrooms.

To stay up to date with our Clinical Governance and Research Committee initiatives visit https://scia.org.au/research-corner/

Our Governance

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) places a very strong emphasis on its governance practices.

SCIA adopted a new constitution, based on the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission) Model Constitution, at the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

The majority of the Board by number must comprise of persons that have a Severe Physical Disability. As of June 2022, the Board comprised of ten people. Seven of those have lived experience of spinal cord injury, and six are current wheelchair users.

The Board and various sub-committees meet bi-monthly.

SCIA's Quality Management System is governed by the following controls:

- · SCIA's Constitution
- SCIA Board Bylaws

- Disability Inclusion Act 2014 NSW
- Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014 NSW
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013.
 This is the legislation which establishes the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the Agency known as the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).
- NDIS Rules. Sets out the detailed operation of the NDIS.
- NDIS Practice Standards. These are the standards to be met by registered NDIS providers to provide support and services to NDIS participants.
- · NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission
- · National Standards for Disability Services.
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011 NSW
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- Anti-discrimination Act NSW 1991



Financial Review

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

TOT the real Linded 30 Julie 2022		2022	2021
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue			
Services income		11,680,137	10,278,953
Government subsidies and grants		2,496,873	2,600,398
Donations		451,161	311,163
Resident contributions		100,546	104,629
Interest income		34,401	19,642
Other income		131,416	67,316
		14,894,534	13,382,101
Other income			
Gain on sale of assets		-	339,951
ATO grants		-	1,255,500
Service NSW grants		992,027	-
		992,027	1,595,451
Total revenue	5	15,886,561	14,977,552
Operating costs			
Community development		(8,702,214)	(6,683,923)
Community services		(4,615,038)	(3,615,474)
Administration		(3,580,017)	(4,068,120)
Fundraising		(359,658)	(435,519)
Marketing		(424,525)	(287,472)
Development		(440,710)	(387,487)
Total operating costs	6	(18,122,162)	(15,477,995)
Loss for the year		(2,235,601)	(500,443)
Other comprehensive income			
Surplus on revaluation of land and buildings	_	570,000	
Total comprehensive income		(1,665,601)	(500,443)

Statement of Financial Position			
As At 30 June 2022		2022	2021
ASSETS	Note	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	2,676,861	4,148,673
Trade and other receivables	8	1,275,820	1,294,752
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		3,952,681	5,443,425
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	5,137,953	5,097,401
Intangible assets	10	84,753	117,573
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		5,222,706	5,214,974
TOTAL ASSETS		9,175,387	10,658,399
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	12	2,577,548	2,328,028
Lease liabilities Employee benefits	11 13	469,531 1,454,464	379,233
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	13 .		1,265,528
		4,501,543	3,972,789
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES Lease liabilities	11	1,292,932	1,670,075
Employee benefits	13	150,189	119,211
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,443,121	1,789,286
NET ASSETS		5,944,664	5,762,075
EQUITY		3,230,723	4,896,324
Reserves		570,000	-
Retained surpluses		2,660,723	4,896,324
		3,230,723	4,896,324
TOTAL EQUITY		3,230,723	4,896,324
Statement of Cash Flows			
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING			
ACTIVITIES:			44.070.744
Receipts from customers		13,043,834	11,272,741
Payments to suppliers and employees		(18,034,869)	(15,444,936)
Donations received		451,161	311,163
Interest received		34,401	19,642
Receipt from grants		3,312,361	4,128,865
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(247,389)	(716,185)
Proceeds on disposal of land and buildings			2,100,783
Proceeds on disposal of motor vehicle			39,250
Purchase of intangible assets		(31,311)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(278,700)	1,423,848
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		(1,471,812)	1,711,323
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		4,148,673	2,437,350
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	7	2,676,861	4,148,673
,		2,070,001	7, 170,010



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SPINAL CORD INJURIES AUSTRALIA

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year 30 June 2022 then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards Simplified Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report.

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

Independence

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standard) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

PKF (NS) Audit & Assurance Limited Partnership ABN 91 850 861 839

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For our office locations visit www.pkf.com.au



Other Information (cont'd)

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Directors 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 Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

Auditor's Report



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (cont'd)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the
 disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in
 a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, action taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

PKF

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SCOTT TOBUTT PARTNER

28 OCTOBER 2022 SYDNEY, NSW

SCIA Credential and Accreditation



- Australian Charities and Not-For Profits Commission
- · Entity: Registered Charity
- · Sub entity: Public Benevolent Institution
- Operating in New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia



- Australian Securities & Investments Commission
- ACN 001 263 734
- ABN 93 001 263 734

Previous names:

- Spinal Cord Injuries Australia Limited
- The Australian Quadriplegic Association (22 November, 1974)



- · Australian Taxation Office
- Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR)

Legal and Financial advisors:







Support Us

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- scia.org.au
- f facebook.com/spinalcordinjuriesaustralia
- (instagram.com/spinalcordinjuriesaustralia/
- (in) linkedin.com/company/955654/admin/





ABN Number: 93 001 263 734