



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24







**BUILDING SKILLS  
AT AIM HIGH**



# CONTENTS

Vision, Purpose, Values .....	04
Chair Report .....	06
Chief Executive Officer Report .....	08
Treasurer Report .....	10
Board and Staff 2023 - 2024.....	11
<b>DSWA Highlights</b>	
Gala Dinner .....	13
World Down Syndrome Day .....	13
Step UP! for Down syndrome .....	14
<b>Communication and Information Technology .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Family Support .....</b>	<b>18</b>
Perth Children’s Hospital Outreach .....	20
Regional Outreach .....	21
Education .....	21
<b>Employment Services</b>	
Employment Connections.....	22
Pathways Project.....	23
<b>DSWA Social Programs</b>	
Playgroups .....	24
KiDS Club.....	26
FrienDS for Life.....	27
Teen School Holiday Program .....	27
Aim High.....	29
Weekend Getaways .....	30
<b>Collaboration and Support .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Down Syndrome Association of WA (INC)</b>	
<b>Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th June</b>	
Statement by Members of the Committee .....	34
Statement of Financial Position .....	35
Statement of Profit and Loss.....	36
Statement of Changes in Equity.....	37
Statement of Cash Flows.....	37
Notes to and for the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th June 2024 .....	38
Independent Auditor’s Report .....	42

## OUR VISION

All people are welcomed in an inclusive society, where their contribution is valued and they are supported to lead a meaningful life of their choice.

## OUR PURPOSE

Supporting a Life of Possibilities

## OUR VALUES

### COMMUNITY

As an organisation, we provide an environment where everyone feels welcomed, where our members are placed at the centre of our decision making

The services we provide build capability and opportunity

Our work is strengthened by the partnerships we form in the broader community

### COURAGE

Our actions and decision making are forward thinking, innovative and empowering

We are brave, curious and optimistic in our pursuits

### INTEGRITY

In all dealings, with all people we are open, transparent and accountable

Our communication and our actions reflect fairness, equality, trust and authenticity



Down Syndrome  
Western Australia

## RESPECT

We stand for the human rights of each individual and their right to inclusion and equality of opportunities

We treat each person with dignity and respect their uniqueness

## SERVICE

Our services are informed by lived experience, knowledge and research and are underpinned by empathy and kindness

## CONNECTION

We listen, support, and respond to the needs of individuals and those that support them

We proactively seek out and work collaboratively with the community, our service partners, and decision makers to support the life our members choose for themselves

We communicate openly, transparently, and frequently

# CHAIR REPORT

As we reflect on the past year, I am both inspired and cautious in my optimism about the path ahead for our organisation. While there have been challenges, including the unexpected news from the Federal government that Capacity Building funding was not continuing. We face those challenges with resilience and determination, however this is not without cost on our team, and our financial resources. Although this decision, which was communicated just weeks before the end of June, has impacted our ability to continue certain programs that have been so successful over the past three years, we remain committed to finding innovative solutions to sustain our delivery to our community. We continue to seek your support, our community, in finding partnerships and sponsors to work collaboratively for our membership.

Whilst we closed the financial year in a strong fiscal position, we have sadly adopted a deficit budget for the coming twelve months. We remain resolute in our commitment to find partnerships, and attract the necessary financial support, but as a member based association this cannot be achieved, without the ongoing commitment of you, our members. We will only succeed with your support, helping us in seeking out new partnerships and collaborations, supporting events and fundraisers.

On a brighter note, our organization continues to grow and thrive. Membership has steadily increased, with new families joining us and past members reconnecting. This year, our newsletter readership has grown by an impressive 13%, a reflection of our strengthened community engagement.

We are especially grateful for the continued partnership with Telethon7 and the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation which have provided invaluable support to families

with children under 17, as well as those in regional areas. As more than half of our members with Down Syndrome are over 18, we remain focused on ensuring that these older individuals, and their families, also receive the care and attention they deserve.

The year was filled with many highlights, a particular standout was our celebration of World Down syndrome Day, which showcased the incredible talents of our members through dance, music, art, and craft. This event truly embodied the spirit of Down Syndrome WA, offering members a platform to shine.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Cassandra and her dedicated team, whose tireless work and passion have made a world of difference for individuals living with Down Syndrome. Despite limited resources, they have consistently gone above and beyond, contributing their personal time to ensure that every initiative is a success. Your commitment is deeply appreciated, and I cannot thank you enough for all that you do.

This year, we also welcomed three co-opted Directors to our Board following last year's AGM. Their diverse skill sets have enriched our discussions and contributed to a productive mid-term review of our Strategic Plan. I am proud of the collaboration and collective vision of the Board, and I thank my fellow Directors for their unwavering commitment. I look forward to continuing this journey together as we embrace the opportunities and challenges ahead.

In closing, while we have encountered challenges, I remain cautiously optimistic in our ability to meet them head-on with the strength of our community, the support of our partners, and the dedication of our team. For Down Syndrome WA to continue to thrive, in particular in the coming year, it

will be up to all of us, every member, every family to find to innovative ways to raise both awareness of the outstanding work of the association and raise funds for our ongoing operations that allow us to deliver support. It is no longer sustainable to think that grant funding from government will sustain us, it simply will not. Without charging membership fees, we are relying on you, our members to jump in boots and all, to support the association so we can always be there to support you when you need us.

Nia Parker  
Chairperson

“Communication with members is a primary focus of the board, ensuring that communication is regular, comprehensive, and supportive.”



**FUN AT  
FRIENDS  
FOR LIFE**



# CEO REPORT

Dear Members, Partners and Supporters,

It is my privilege to present the CEO Annual Report for 2024. Over the past year, DSWA has experienced significant progress, advancing our Vision and Purpose despite the challenges that have come our way. We have made progress across all key performance areas improving systems, ensuring program outcomes were set to meet member goals, improving our financial position and stabilisation of the core staffing team.

This has seen an incredible body of work and level of service provided to the community. With a very small core team, we have delivered two school holiday programs and held our first ever siblings camp with great success. Our social group programs have continued to support members and offer fantastic opportunities for fun, growth and skill building. The family support team has expanded its services, and continues to deliver outstanding engagement, service and support to new and existing families, from prenatal diagnosis to 17.

The funded Pathways to Independence project delivered our workshop series, delivering excellent outcomes with more than 170 members attending events. The Employment project continued to excel and deliver great results. This year the work readiness programs have also been highly successful building skills and readiness to work.

We have participated in and partnered with Telethon Kids Institute, Curtin University and UWA, as well as undertaken our own pilot data research on Down Syndrome Regression Disorder. Dr Jonathon Santoro, a leading global expert in regression disorder spoke via teams to a registered guest list of 127 people. We have continued our dedication to raising awareness, finding medical support and providing family support to those with suspected Down

Syndrome Regression Disorder. WA has led the way in the DSRD space, creating a valuable tool for families to take to their GP's to work toward a diagnosis.

Our industry and sector connections continue to grow, and this year has included Dress for Success, Siblings Australia, Future Living WA, DDWA, McCusker Intern Program, UWA and Curtin Uni, Perth Glory, DLA Piper, Baker Hughes, The Perth Mint, The Boxman and Globe 24/7.

We have welcomed the strong interest and registration for membership of the association, welcoming new families and those that have previously been members or had not required our support during childhood years. I am grateful for the trust the community places in the association.

There has been some outstanding events in the 2023-2024 year including StepUP, a wonderful day coordinated by two staff members, and whilst its fundraising outcome was low, reinforced our need to continue connecting our members. The event held at Government House in October was outstanding and 100 members were able to share their story with His Excellency the Governor and Mrs Dawson. We continue to support the Telethon Family Festival, and engaged with the Premier and the Telethon team during the year. The all of Association Christmas party was an enormous success with 200 people attending, bringing joy and connection. World Down Syndrome Day events in March were outstanding, showcasing the talents of our members and the 2024 Gala was exceptional fun. I am grateful to a powerful, organised and committed staff team that organised all of these events for our members to enjoy.

The board and I enjoyed a visit to Parliament House and were able to advocate for greater engagement between the State Government and Down Syndrome WA.



We have continued to apply for grant opportunities at a Federal level but with little success. We are grateful to Telethon7 and the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation for their ongoing support to DSWA providing family support services and activities to members under 17 years.

I wish to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of our staff. My team are compassionate, kind, and deeply committed to delivering every possible outcome with very limited time and financial resources. I acknowledge the difference they make, the work they put in and the passion they have for what they do. I also acknowledge the DSWA Board for a strong year and commitment to the strategic future and risk management of the association.

We closed the 2024 financial year strongly, being able to place some further funds into reserve, however putting forward a deficit budget for the coming year was less than ideal. As we move into the new fiscal year, we begin with a strong commitment to bring the budget back to surplus. We will be actively seeking out mutually beneficial partnerships with businesses and organisations in the coming year.

Together, we are a strong association with the ability to change the world for our members, but we must do that together, we always need the support of stakeholders and supporters, but most importantly we need the support of our members, engaging and participating in the activities and fundraising for the association.

Cassandra Hughes  
Chief Executive Officer



“  
Each challenge has provided us with an opportunity to grow, to be better and to do better.  
”

# TREASURER REPORT

The 2023/24 year has been another positive financial year for Down Syndrome Western Australia, however it has not been without its challenges as an Association. DSWA finished the year with a profit of \$76,441, a decrease off \$25,796 from the prior year. This was a fantastic achievement given we entered the year budgeting to realise only a slight profit. Through strong cost management and the generosity of the community we were able to achieve a higher profit while delivering quality programs and events for our community. Revenue for 2023/24 was \$864,055, which is a decrease on the 2022/23 revenue of \$872,271 with the majority coming from grants. There is significant uncertainty around the future of these grants, with the Federal Government not continuing ILC funding to a number of recipients, including DSWA, via Down Syndrome Australia, which we had received for a number of years. Income through donations and fundraising is critical to DSWAs financial future.

Fortunately DSWA has a healthy cash balance, well established financial systems, and strong financial management. The budget and cash flow are all linked to the strategic and operational plans and are closely monitored by the Board. A reserve account has been put in place with the intention of developing operational reserves to mitigate the risk to changes in funding.

## DONATIONS

Donations received from events and general, amounting to **\$68,463**



## EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Five members have been placed in various workplaces



## GETAWAYS

Five getaways were held in 2023/24, generating income of **\$84,333**



## TEACHER PL

Teacher Professional Learning Day was held in February 2023 generating an income of **\$15,355**

	<b>REVENUE</b>	How much money we received	<b>\$864,055</b>
	<b>EXPENSES</b>	How much money we spent	<b>\$787,414</b>
	<b>SURPLUS</b>	How much money we had left	<b>\$76,641</b>
	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	How much money we have now	<b>\$603,880</b>
	<b>LIABILITIES</b>	How much money we owe	<b>\$327,501</b>
	<b>EQUITY NET ASSETS</b>	How much money would be left if we sell everything we own and pay all the money we owe	<b>\$276,379</b>

# DSWA BOARD AND STAFF 2024-2025

## BOARD

**Chair:** Nia Parker

**Deputy Chair:** Hayley Warren

**Treasurer:** Jemma Henderson

**Secretary:** Kelly Wake

**Board Members:**

Emily McCain

Jason King (co-opted member)

Aaron Crowther (co-opted member)

James Shaddick (co-opted member)

## STAFF 2022- 2022

**Chief Executive Officer:** Cassandra Hughes

**Senior Coordinator:** Nikki Schwagermann

**IT and Communications:** Rachel Slevic

**Employment Coordinator:** Stephanie Bryant

**Aim High Coordinator:** Laura Pinnell

**Friends for Life Coordinator:** Laura Pinnell

**Kids Club Coordinator:** Siobhan Painter

**Playgroup Coordinators:** Tracy Bicker, Renee Whiskin

**Family Support Officer:** Danica Bowes

The team on  
World Down  
Syndrome Day  
2024





# DSWA HIGHLIGHTS

## 2023/2024 DSWA HIGHLIGHTS

### EVENTS



**175**

Attendees at our WSD events

### SOCIAL GROUPS



Ran 28 social groups for people with Ds with

**131**

attendees

### MEMBERSHIP

Our membership increased from 1634 to 1900 members



### Ds MEMBERS



**522**

Members with Ds from 441 to 522

### TRAINING SESSIONS



Provided 10 training sessions for

**230**

educators, students, swimming teachers and Santas!

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Approx. 200 people at our Christmas party



### BABY VISITS



**22**

Visited 22 new babies and their families

### PLAYGROUPS

Ran 68 playgroup sessions with

**726** attendees



### ADULT CAMPS



Provided 6 camps for adults with Ds with

**35** attendees

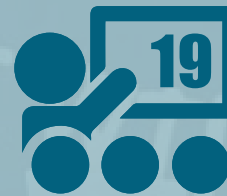
### SIBLING CAMPS



**20** attendees

Provided 1 camp for siblings of people with Ds with 20 attendees

### WORKSHOPS



Facilitated 19 workshop sessions with

**219**

participants



## GALA 2024

Gala 2024 celebrated Connecting the Dots, recognising the value and impact of connection within the Down Syndrome WA community.



World Down Syndrome Awareness month was celebrated in style at Government House.



## STEPUP! 2023

Step Up 2023, held during the second week of Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October, was a vibrant and fun-filled family event. Despite the day being packed with engaging activities and attractions, this year faced challenges with both community involvement and fundraising.

Step Up 2023 featured a variety of attractions and activities that catered to families and individuals of all ages. Some of the key highlights included:

- **Adventure Walk:** The adventure walk for participants was a highlight, encouraging physical activity and providing an opportunity for families to enjoy the outdoors together.
- **Market and Service Stalls:** Attendees had the opportunity to explore various market stalls offering unique products and services, creating a lively marketplace atmosphere.
- **Silent Disco:** The silent disco was a hit among participants, offering a unique and enjoyable way to dance and have fun with friends and family.
- **Cuddly Animal Farm:** The animal farm allowed children and families to interact with and learn about a variety of friendly animals, adding an educational and entertaining element to the day.
- **Interactive Performers and Music:** Engaging performers and live music created a festive atmosphere, encouraging everyone to join in the fun and celebrate together.

**Challenges in Fundraising and Community Involvement:** While Step Up 2023 was successful in terms of the variety of activities and entertainment offered, it faced challenges in other areas:

- **Lower Community Involvement:** The number of participants and overall community involvement on the day was lower than expected, impacting the event's atmosphere and reach.
- **Reduced Fundraising Efforts:** The total funds raised were 50% lower than the previous year. Participants' fundraising efforts did not meet expectations, presenting a significant financial challenge for the organisation and disappointment for the organising team.

**\$11,000  
raised!**





Despite these challenges, Step Up 2023 reinforced the importance of community events; bringing families together and raising awareness of Down syndrome. The feedback from attendees was positive, highlighting the value of such events for social connection and support. We attracted 200 guests.

Looking ahead, DSWA is committed to exploring new strategies and opportunities to improve community engagement and fundraising efforts for future events to ensure the continued success of Step Up in the coming years as Step Up is the primary fundraising activity of the association each year.

Thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and contributed to making Step Up 2023 a memorable event. DSWA look forward to your continued support and participation in future and a huge thank you to Tracy Bicker and Danica Bowes for their enthusiasm in delivering the 2023 event.



# COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

During 2023-2024, the major project focus for Information Technology and Communications, was to improve the security and safety we provide our members online, to do so, we have added new password management tools, undertaken a full Facebook group audit, and audited the DSWA member database. DSWA's 13 private Facebook groups, in conjunction with the E-News, remain our most popular methods of engagement with existing DSWA members.

This year we undertook an audit of all closed Facebook groups in response to growing concerns around cybersecurity and to ensure members have safety knowing everyone in the group is from the community. The audit was conducted over four months and resulted in an increase in active DSWA members from 1699 to 1886 resulting from people who were on Facebook but not in the member data base. It also resulted in many people being deleted from the Facebook groups who did not meet the eligibility criteria.

To support regional outreach, we continue to introduce new regional Facebook group pages, this year Peel region was released. The most interactive closed groups are the Family Support Network followed by Kids Club and Playgroups.

The DSWA public Facebook page, along with our website, continue to be our main methods of communication with audiences outside the DSWA community such as stakeholders, other not for profits, potential staff and general community members. Our public Facebook followers continues to grow steadily and at the end of June 2024 we had 4508 organic followers.

We added LinkedIn to our social media platforms in June 2022 which has continued to grow. LinkedIn is an important social media presence for DSWA in the business arena, creating networks with other relevant not for profits, stakeholders and potential partners. In the last 12 months we have continued to see a steady increase in followers, up by 28%.

## IN BRIEF

### MEMBER DATABASE

Membership has increased by 15% at June 2024.

### WEBSITE

Average page view increase of 47% for Jan-April  
Average monthly views of 10,212

### NATIONAL RESOURCES GROUP

Meet monthly to design, review and input to publications in the National Resource Hub

### E-NEWS

17% increase in subscribers in 12 months  
Above average open rate of 43% (NFP avg is 25.17%)



## MEMBER DATABASE

DSWA undertook a project to review all members in our database. It is imperative that contact information stays up to date, as it's the primary tool for communication such as sending the E-News, important updates and contacting members with relevant information and in rare cases in an emergency.

Member information is also important from a financial perspective as we use deidentified data to apply for grants and demonstrate outcomes being achieved across our programs and activities.

## NATIONAL RESOURCES GROUP

DSWA is a member of the Down Syndrome Australia National Resources Group which creates, reviews and supports Australia wide online and printed resources and publications. Some of the new and updated resources include an Easy Read Coeliac Disease resource and an information survey of people with Down syndrome. The resource hub, also now includes a range of information and resources on Down Syndrome Regression Disorder, with significant input from Down Syndrome WA. The resources are shared and stored on the National DSA website under a comprehensive resource hub freely accessible for all.

## E-NEWS

The DSWA eNews is a reliable, engaging and informative monthly communication with all DSWA members and the wider community. DSWA staff contribute articles relevant to their area to the eNews. From June 2023 to June 2024 e-news subscribers increased by 17%. And we continue to see a very positive open rate of 43%, which is 20% higher than the average for a Not for Profit association.

Focused, directed and specific emails for topics such as the DSWA Annual General Meeting, funding updates or Gala Dinner continue to see very high opening rates, above 55%.

## WEBSITE

DSWA staff worked with Down Syndrome Australia to implement upgrades to the website. The main change was to move from two menus to a single menu for both DSWA and Down Syndrome Australia information. This was implemented in September 2023.

For the first 4 months of 2024, views for the DSWA website have increased from 2023 by an average of 47%. And we have continued to see a spike of 25% in visits to the DSWA website in March, during World Down Syndrome Day. We've also seen an increase in the number of queries received via the website. The website remains imperative as a popular source of information for resources and an initial point of contact for new and returning members, affiliates, new staff and volunteers.

Rachel Slevic  
IT/Communications Co-ordinator



# FAMILY SUPPORT

This year has been one of growth and increased capacity for the DSWA Family Support Team. In January 2023 DSWA received increased funding by Telethon which allowed Danica Bowes to join Nikki Schwagermann as a new team member, This extended the reach of the family support team providing more comprehensive support to families within our community allowing more support to families from prenatal, preteen and teenage years.

The DSWA Family Support Team offered a wide range of services designed to support parents and families through various stages and challenges. These services included:

- **Phone Consultations and Advice:** Provide personalized consultations and advice over the phone, addressing specific concerns and questions.
- **Home Visits:** Conducted home visits to offer hands-on support and guidance in a comfortable and familiar environment.
- **Diverse Information Delivery:** Delivered a broad spectrum of information and resources to families, ensuring they had access to the knowledge and tools they needed.
- **Prenatal Decisions:** Supported families in making informed decisions during the prenatal stage, offering compassion and expertise.
- **Newborn Stages:** Assisted families in navigating the early stages of their child's life, providing crucial support and guidance.
- **NDIS:** Supported families to understand and navigate the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), ensuring they can access the supports and services their child is entitled to.
- **School and Daycare Transitions:** Offered support during critical transitions, such as starting school or daycare, helping families and children adjust smoothly.

- **Education Advocacy:** Advocated for the educational needs of children with Down syndrome, ensuring they receive appropriate support and opportunities for learning.
- **Finding Formal Supports:** Assisted families in locating and securing formal supports, including therapy services, respite care, and more.
- **Parent and Bub Morning Teas:** Hosted quarterly gatherings for parents, babies and toddlers focused on providing support for families in the early stages and fostering connections between members.

The expansion of the family support team and the breadth of services offered have had a positive impact on DSWA families. The team address a wide range of queries, providing targeted assistance, empowering parents and caregivers to make informed decisions and foster the well-being and development of their children.



The value of early connection  
through Family support  
and playgroups thanks  
to Telethon7





# PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OUTREACH

DSWA's Senior Coordinator Nikki, has provided support at the Perth Children's Hospital once a week through the PCH Outreach program, visiting children and their families in the wards, meeting new parents in the coffee shop while their babies are having a surgical procedure, and met families in the Ronald McDonald Family Room in between appointments.

Nikki was joined this year by a new team member Danica, and has been introducing her to the role at PCH.

The expansion of the team ensures there is always support available.

"Providing support and advocacy for families."





## REGIONAL OUTREACH

The DSWA Regional Outreach Program has made significant strides this year in extending our support to families across various regions of Western Australia. The Regional Outreach Program now supports families in the Great Southern, South West, Mid West, and has expanded support to the Peel region, broadening our reach and enhancing community connections, both online and in person.

Since the launch of our Regional Outreach Program, there has been a noticeable increase in community connection among families in the regions. This connectivity is facilitated through both online and In person activities. Our online platforms have seen a surge in activity, with families connecting, sharing experiences, and providing support to one another. In person events have attracted regular community events in the Great Southern region fostering a strong sense of belonging and mutual support. These gatherings provide opportunities for families to meet, share stories, and build lasting relationships.

One of the highlights of the year was the collective celebration of World Down Syndrome Day in March across the regions. Families from all supported regions came together to commemorate this special day, participating in events that raised awareness and celebrated the achievements of individuals with Down syndrome.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR EDUCATORS

For the second year the DSWA team presented the Educators Professional Learning Day in both an in person and online format, making it available statewide. DSWA staff were joined by 48 teachers, education assistants and school administrators for a full day of presentations.

In 2023 - 2024 DSWA provided bespoke on demand sessions in both the metropolitan and regional areas. These included presentations at Albany Hospital, Aquamotion at City of Wanneroo, Bethel Christian School Albany, Lake Grace Primary School, Scene to Believe Santas and NIDO Early Years Banksia Grove and Curtin University and University of Western Australia.



The Regional Outreach Program has had a profound impact on the communities we serve. By providing consistent and reliable support, we have helped families navigate various challenges and celebrate their successes. The increase in community connection has created a network of support that families can rely on, both online and in person.

DSWA is committed to continuing and expanding the delivery of supports to the regions of Western Australia through regional visits from the Family Support Team and community events. DSWA aim to further enhance our outreach efforts, ensuring that every family has access to the resources and support they need, regardless of their location.

**DSWA WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE TELETHON FOR PROVIDING FUNDING FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, REGIONAL OUTREACH AND PCH OUTREACH.**



# EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

## EMPLOYMENT CONNECTIONS

The past 12 months have been hugely successful for the Employment Connections Project, with three additional people securing employment, two in administration and one in a manufacturing warehouse.

During this 12 month period we focussed on building relationships with businesses, providing education and information about employing and working with people with Down Syndrome. We sought to secure interest in participating in the Open Employment program which resulted in a number of new business connections, leading us to a bright future for the program. Having both a balance of willing potential employers and employment candidates is essential for the future of the program.

The School Leavers Employment Services (SLES) program continued to grow following its implementation in 2023. A number of DSWA members undertook one on one upskilling programs with the training tailored to their goals for employment, with the goal to move towards readiness for work in open employment.

We also ran two group upskilling and training courses including a Ready for Work program and a Money Management program.

Two DSWA members secured work experience one in administration and another in retail.

By providing information and understanding about open employment, pursuing opportunities with businesses to customise roles, and working alongside our members - supporting them with education and skills, we continue to break down the employment barriers experienced by people living with Down syndrome and build successful employment pathways.

We continue to face challenges finding secure and reliable employment mentors, those that support our members in the workplace as they achieve independence. In a highly competitive labour market, finding and retaining staff has been difficult which is then impactful on members. We continue to work toward securing a base group of support staff to become employment mentors.



The Employment program generating meaningful work



Introducing new skills and tools

## PATHWAYS PROJECT

It was a busy year for the DSWA Pathways program. Fourteen successful education workshops were held to provide support for people living with Down Syndrome and their families.

The workshops were:

NDIS New Parents, NDIS Teens workshops, Staying Healthy, Wills Power of Attorney and Guardianship, Becoming a Teenager, Transitioning to School, Behaviour Management and a Relationships Six Unit Course.

More than 170 DSWA members participated in our workshops over the twelve-month period and the feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive.

The workshops provided the chance for some of our members to cofacilitate sharing lived experience and adding much value to the learning.

The pathways project is part of a National Capacity Building Program delivered by Down Syndrome Australia and was funded by the Australian Government through the Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Grant program.

It provided resources, education and support to our members with the opportunity to lead accomplished and significant lives and allowed DSWA to Support a Life of Possibilities for our members.

This program has not received funding from the Federal government for the coming year, despite it's national success. We continue to seek innovative ways to deliver capacity building for Adults with Down syndrome and their parents and carers to build independence and skills relevant to todays changing world.

“Pathways to independence, building skills and confidence.”





# SOCIAL PROGRAMS

## DEVELOPMENTAL PLAYGROUPS

DSWA offer two playgroups per week funded by Telethon7. We extend our immense gratitude to Telethon7 and the WA community for this support, as without this funding these pivotal early years opportunities and connections could not be delivered.

The playgroups work together to ensure the best possible programs are offered to families, providing an outstanding opportunity for children to grow, discover, explore and play, enabling natural and purposeful discovery as they reach their full potential as lifelong learners. Playgroup is involved in creating the annual Playgroup Calendar which has been a wonderful visual on the wall during 2024.



## PLAYGROUP NORTH

2023/2024 has seen another exciting year learning and great social interactions, welcoming new families from as far as Moore River. It's such a joyful experience introducing new families to our community. Throughout the year, 2023 was rounded up nicely with a playgroup Christmas party at our center, with families gathering for a lovely morning tea and secret Santa gift exchange for the kids and the parents. Summer welcomed Sensorium theatre for three sensory filled sessions, the children really enjoyed the music and the interactive play that was created.

World Down Syndrome Day and Easter celebrations combined as we crafted blue and yellow hats and bunny ears. Autumn brought out our artistic side with a paint and sip session for our kids, really enjoying creating works of art on their canvases while sipping on their orange juice. Mother's Day was made special with the kids being able to create flowerpots with their own handprints. Messy Mat Perth also came to play in term two, a hot favorite for our group. We have been very grateful for the level of participation from all our families over this last financial year.

On one Friday morning, 35 people attended Playgroup, needless to say it was a very loud session but it was so wonderful to see so many families together.

Playgroup North Coordinators Tracy Bicker and Danica Bowes.

## PLAYGROUP SOUTH

We have continued to create an environment where children feel safe and secure. Our services go the extra mile to support our families by celebrating special events and inviting outside resources to come and join us in teaching our children learning through play, some examples are messy mats, sensorium theatre, physio and dance therapists, taking feedback from our families into consideration.

Being a part of such a vibrant and tight knit community enables us to continue to form strong relationships with our families, investing in each child's learning journey as they continue to grow and learn as they move towards and into their kindy and school years.

Playgroup South Coordinators Renee Whiskin and Nicole Campher



DSWA WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
**TELETHON** FOR PROVIDING FUNDING  
FOR THE PLAYGROUP.



#DSWAplaygroup



# SOCIAL PROGRAMS CONT.

## KIDS CLUB (6-11 YEARS)

DSWA's KiDS Club is generously supported by the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation.

KIDS Club supports children with Down syndrome aged from 6 to 11 gain knowledge, learn skills, contribute more effectively, stay safe and build friendships in school, sport, recreation and other community activities. It includes activities specifically for young people and activities for them within their family context. This supports families to gain knowledge and skills to understand, continue and reinforce activity learning. The club is a wonderful opportunity for play and socialization, peer support, and parent networking.

KiDS Club events averaged 10 families per event, with an average of 22 people total. The largest event, the April Circus workshop was attended by 35 attendees. We welcomed five new families who transitioned from Playgroup to KiDS Club this year, and we saw the transition of three families move to Friends for Life program for 12-17 years old.

The club has created a safe space for participants and their siblings to build relationships, enhancing their social skills and confidence. It has been great to see the children and their siblings all support and encourage one another. The club also facilitated connections among parents, allowing them to exchange knowledge and foster supportive relationships with one another which is highly valued by parents.

Throughout the last year, the program has confirmed the significance of peer support, helping both children and their families connect with others who share similar experiences and exchange valuable insights.

Coordinator Siobhan Painter



**Bibra Lake Park Play**

**Yoga**  
**DFES Visit**  
**Circus workshop**

**Maylands Waterland Park Play**

**Indoor Play Centre**  
**Slime Workshop**

**Yoga and StepUP**  
**Jo Wheatly Park Play**

**Cooking Class**

*KiDS Club events over the last 12 months*





## FRIENDS FOR LIFE (12-17 YEARS)

Over the past twelve months, more than 22 members participated in the Friends for Life program. Friends for Life supports the growth, development and independence of teenage members. We have seen the development of new friendships and an increase in skills and confidence.

A social outing was held every month, for the participants. Various activities were held across the Perth metropolitan area and included events and activities such as Laser Tag, picnics in the park with footy and games, Capoeira classes, Fringe Festival shows, silent discos, ten pin bowling, arts and crafts and dinosaurs and fossils at Jurassic Kingdom.



## TEEN SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

It was a pleasure to witness our Teens immerse themselves in fun activities during our two School Holiday Programs over the past 12 months in January and July each year.

There were many fun activities including outdoor sports, board games, a magical Winterfest excursion with ice skating and show rides, dancing, reptile incursions, yoga, movies and baking to name a few. The program focussed on providing a nurturing, safe environment in which every child feels valued and engaged. We saw friendships blossom, and talents shine as the participants engaged in fun, educational and connective activities. The program left many beaming with joy, enriched by the experiences.









## AIM HIGH

This year was very successful for our Aim High Program with an increased in participation with 30 members enjoying a wide range of activities over the year.

It was a fun-filled year with varied and exciting experiences including dolphin watching on a cruise, movies under the stars, cultural experiences enjoying the "Old Country" Exhibition and Sculptures by the Sea, ten pin bowling, and barefoot lawn bowls, train trips and fish and chips.

The monthly activities are designed to enhance member experience and challenge their beliefs, increasing skills and supporting their goals for independence.

Coordinators Daisy Collier and Laura Pinnell



A day at the football



# SOCIAL PROGRAMS CONT.

## WEEKEND GETAWAYS

This year Getaways took us to:

- Fremantle
- Woodman
- Busselton
- Jurien Bay

which was a slightly lower offering than in other years, with Getaways normally running every two months.

Aimed at building independence, skills and capacity, Getaways provide opportunities to develop skills in new environments, practice independence, reinforce existing friendships and develop new ones with expanding confidence.

This year's Getaways provided awesome experiences including underwater observatory and Dolphin Discovery tours, tower climbing, mazes, mini golf, train trips and brain teasers. The Getaways also importantly include activities such as cooking meals as a team, and bonding over board games and puzzles, and chats around the dinner table.



Visiting new places, developing new skills and making new friends.



# COLLABORATION & SUPPORT

“The greatest successes we will have is when we work together to achieve a goal we both believe in.”

## MAJOR DONORS

Forty Winks  
The Perth Mint  
Globe 24/7  
Dry Cleaners Band  
Dylan J King Music  
Synergy

## SUPPORT

Messy Mat Perth	Key Word Sign Australia
Sensorium Theatre	Relationships Australia
NDIS	Developmental Disability WA
The Boxman	Therapy Focus/Pebbles
Synergy Graphics	WA Department of Communities
Push Consulting	Siblings Australia
Glenway Signs	Telethon Kids Institute Siblings Project
Globe 24-7	

## FUNDERS

Telethon  
Stan Perron Charitable Foundation  
Down Syndrome Australia







# Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

# STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee have determined that the association is not-for-profit and is not a reporting entity.

The committee have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Down Syndrome Association of WA (Inc). as at 30 June 2024 and its financial performance for the year ended on that date;
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Down Syndrome Association of WA (Inc) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due;  
and
3. The financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Association Incorporation Act 2015 (WA), Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Dated this day 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024



Jemma Henderson  
TREASURER



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		
Cheque Account	5	37,252
Debit Card	0	6,501
Unspent Grants Account	2	209,574
Term Deposit	135,929	131,426
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>135,936</b>	<b>384,753</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Clearing Accounts</b>		
Clearing Account - MyCause	4,685	3,230
Clearing Account - PayPal	561	444
Clearing Account - Stripe	68	68
Clearing Account - Trybooking	2,525	3,408
<b>Total Clearing Accounts</b>	<b>7,839</b>	<b>7,150</b>
Accounts Receivable	23,093	93,326
Prepayments	16,829	15,772
Computing Equipment	8,994	8,994
Less Accumulated Depreciation - Computing Equipm	(8,994)	(8,994)
Office Equipment	181	0
BOQ Special Purpose Reserve	6,331	0
BOQ General Reserve	120,891	0
BOQ Unspent Grants Reserve	233,471	0
BOQ Operating Account	59,309	0
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>467,944</b>	<b>116,248</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>603,880</b>	<b>501,001</b>
<b>Liabilities Current</b>		
Accounts Payable	17,205	5,021
Accrued Wages	0	5,665
PAYG Withholding	7,490	6,906
Superannuation Payable	5,033	2,843
GST	(2,890)	11,205
Provision for Annual Leave	26,347	24,122
Provision for Long Service Leave	16,313	9,689
Prepaid Revenue	2,631	3,213
Insurance Premium Funding	0	8,086
Grant Funding Unspent	256,063	225,053
Suspense	(690)	(540)
Rounding	0	(0)
<b>Total Liabilities Current</b>	<b>327,501</b>	<b>301,263</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>276,379</b>	<b>199,738</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	76,641	102,437
Retained Earnings	199,738	97,301
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>276,379</b>	<b>199,738</b>

# STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Account	2024	2023
<b>Income</b>		
Grants Revenue	432,164	412,605
Donations Received	68,463	41,757
<b>Trading Activities</b>		
Sales - Merchandise	5,404	5,344
<b>Total Trading Activities</b>	<b>5,404</b>	<b>5,344</b>
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Training & Support	15,355	15,656
Program/Peer Support Fees	331,120	393,501
Sponsorship	5,674	2,010
<b>Total Operating Activities</b>	<b>352,149</b>	<b>411,167</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Interest Unrestricted	5,874	1,398
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>5,874</b>	<b>1,398</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>864,055</b>	<b>872,271</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Personnel</b>		
Wages Salaries & Super	552,276	546,634
Staff Training & Development	0	560
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>552,276</b>	<b>547,194</b>
Fees/Charges & Licenses	2,983	1,798
<b>Operating Costs</b>		
Events & Activities	122,427	114,734
Travel & Accommodation	20,530	9,275
Advertising & Promotion	2,597	1,620
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	<b>145,554</b>	<b>125,629</b>
<b>Administration</b>		
Office & Executive	18,416	34,139
Audit Fees	6,212	4,350
Rent - Property	20,212	18,652
Professional Services	25,578	31,002
Insurance Public Liability & WC	16,182	7,069
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>86,600</b>	<b>95,212</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>787,414</b>	<b>769,833</b>
<b>Operating (Deficit) / Surplus</b>	<b>76,641</b>	<b>102,437</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Surplus Attributable to Members</b>	<b>76,641</b>	<b>102,437</b>



# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Account	2024	2023
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Balance	199,738	97,301
Current Year Earnings	76,641	102,437
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>276,379</b>	<b>199,738</b>

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Account	Notes	2024	2023
<b>Operating Activities</b>			
Receipts from customers		863,178	899,277
Payments to suppliers and employees		(790,651)	(780,126)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	2b	9,796	10,183
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		<b>82,323</b>	<b>129,334</b>
<b>Investing Activities</b>			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		0	0
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(181)	(8,994)
Other cash items from investing activities		0	(15,772)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		<b>(181)</b>	<b>(24,766)</b>
<b>Financing Activities</b>			
Other cash items from financing activities		89,732	(8,250)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>		<b>89,732</b>	<b>(8,250)</b>
<b>Net Cash Flows</b>		<b>171,874</b>	<b>96,318</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
Cash at beginning of Year		391,903	295,585
Net increase in Cash Held		171,874	96,318
<b>Cash at end of Year</b>	2a	<b>563,777</b>	<b>391,903</b>

# NOTES TO AND PART OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

## ATTACHED NOTES FORM PART OF THE STATEMENT

### NOTE 1 – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirement of the Australian Charities and Not-for- Profits Commission Act 2012 and Australian Charities and Not- for Profits Commission regulations 2013. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and therefore there is no requirement to apply accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in the preparation of these statements.

The association is a not-for-profit entity, and the statements are prepared on an accrual basis.

**a) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

**b) 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 Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

**c) Trade and other payables**

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

**d) Trade and other receivables**

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses.

**e) Employee Entitlements**

The provision for employee benefits relates to the amount liable to be paid for the long service leave and annual leave resulting from employee services provided to balance date. All entitlements are calculated at their nominal amounts using remuneration rates and expected to be settled within one year.

**f) Comparative Information**

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

**g) Operating Grants and Donations**

When the Association received operating grant revenue and donations.

It assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Association:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant – recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement



## NOTE 1 – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT)

- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations. Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Entity:
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Entity recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

## NOTE 2 - CASHFLOW INFORMATION

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at bank.

### a. Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2024	2023
Cash and Cash Equivalents	563,777	391,903
	2023	2022
<b>b. Profit</b>	76,641	102,437
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	-	8,994
Interest Expense	994	688
(Increase)/ Decrease in trade and other receivables	69,176	(63,288)
Increase/ (Decrease) in trade and other payables	26,057	57,169
Cash flow used in operations	171,874	106,000

## NOTE 3 - CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

The association has no capital commitments as at 30 June 2024. The Association has a lease in place for the rental of office space at 17 Hackett Drive Crawley. The three-year lease commenced on 5 March 2023 and will expire on 5th March 2026. The annual rent is \$18,780 inclusive of GST.

## NOTE 4 - POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

No matters or circumstances has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the association's operations, the results of those operations or the association's state of affairs in future financial years.

**Down Syndrome Association of Western Australia  
Inc.**

**Independent Audit Report to the members of Down Syndrome  
Association of Western Australia Inc.**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

**Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Down Syndrome Association of Western Australia Inc. (the Association), which comprises the statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2024 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015.

**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 are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (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.

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

**Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the Corporations Act 2001. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Other matter**

Francis A Jones did not complete the audit for the 2023 period and therefore we do not form an opinion on the prior year comparative figures.

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association'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 management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

**Down Syndrome Association of Western Australia  
Inc.**

**Independent Audit Report to the members of Down Syndrome  
Association of Western Australia Inc.**

**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 the 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 this 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 Association's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.

Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's 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 Association'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 reporter, 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 Association 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 management 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 management 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, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.



## **Auditor's Independence Declaration to the board of Down Syndrome Association of Western Australia**

In accordance with requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the board of Down Syndrome Association of Western Australia. I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2024 there have been no contraventions of;

- The auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- Any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Daniel Papaphotis CPA  
Registered Company Auditor  
# - 410503  
Francis A Jones Pty Ltd  
154 High Street  
Fremantle WA 6160  
Date: 4 October 2024





Down Syndrome  
Western Australia



[www.downsyndrome.org.au/wa](http://www.downsyndrome.org.au/wa)