



# Annual Report 2016



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## Front Cover

Lorelle Nash (QLD) and coach Leonie Langton (QLD) embrace after Lorelle won gold in the walk event at the Trans Tasman Tournament in Hamilton, New Zealand in November 2016.

Photo: Penny Towns

## Below

Special Olympics athletes (left to right): Keegan Gray; Elisha Southee; Danielle Slade and Amanda Stevens from Special Olympics Sydney South Club (NSW) celebrate 40 years of Special Olympics Australia. Photo: Peter Muhlbock.

This Annual Report covers the activities of Special Olympics Australia between 1 January and 31 December 2016. For a copy please email [info@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:info@specialolympics.com.au) or call 1300 225 762.

An electronic copy can be found at [www.specialolympics.com.au](http://www.specialolympics.com.au).





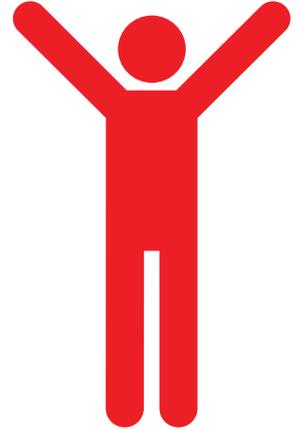
# Our Story

## Combining the transformative power of sport and a holistic approach to athlete well-being enables Special Olympics Australia to support a better life for people with an intellectual disability.

Special Olympics Australia strives to ensure that everyone living with an intellectual disability has the opportunity to participate in sport. Our dedicated network of volunteers create accessible sports training, coaching and competition opportunities that allow people with an intellectual disability to reach their personal best – in sport and in life.

We provide:

- Weekly grassroots sporting, recreational, social and health activities in local communities around Australia.
- An environment where people with an intellectual disability can develop physical fitness, build self-esteem, demonstrate courage and make friends.
- Competition pathways ranging from weekly club events, to regional, state and national games, culminating in the Special Olympics World Games in both Summer and Winter.



## FROM THE BACKYARD TO THE GLOBAL STAGE

Special Olympics owes its existence to the vision of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who in 1962 invited a group of young people with intellectual disabilities to a summer camp in her backyard. In July 1968, the first International Special Olympics Games were held in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, whose sister Rosemary had an intellectual disability, believed that if people with intellectual disabilities were given the same opportunities and experiences as everyone else, they could accomplish far more than anyone ever thought possible.

Today Special Olympics is a global movement with 4.7 million athletes in 169 countries, hosting 108,000 competitions in 32 sports.

Special Olympics Australia was founded in 1976 and in 2016 celebrated its 40th year.



## ABOUT INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

There are over 600,000 Australians with an intellectual disability<sup>1</sup>, forming the largest disability population. Every two hours a child is diagnosed with an intellectual disability<sup>2</sup>.

People with an intellectual disability are the most marginalised community and face low expectations<sup>3</sup>. Children, young people and adults with an intellectual disability often do not fit into mainstream sport and so don't get the chance to participate in sport and experience all the benefits it brings.

Special Olympics Australia removes these barriers, makes sports participation possible, reduces social isolation and builds a sense of the 'can' rather than the 'can not'.

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012  
2. PwC, Disability Expectations, 2011  
3. The Lancet Vol 4, May 2016



# Messages

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In 2016 Special Olympics Australia hit a milestone – its 40th anniversary. For 40 years this wonderful organisation has had a real and lasting impact on the lives of people with an intellectual disability in Australia. 40 years is a remarkable achievement for any organisation and something that we should all be proud of.

Special Olympics globally began almost 50 years ago as a backyard camp hosted by Eunice Kennedy Shriver. From there it has grown to encompass 4.7 million athletes in 169 countries across the globe, including Australia.

For 40 years we have held up the ideals of the Special Olympics movement. We have taken the Special Olympics mission and vision and brought to them the Australian love of sport and competition, mateship and the Australian way of ‘having a go’ to make them uniquely our own. Special Olympics Australia should be proud of its position within the global Special Olympics movement, the quality of its sports delivery and the sense of community that we have fostered in our Clubs across the country.

We have created an outstanding Special Olympics program in Australia. This was achieved through the hard work and dedication of thousands of volunteers throughout the years who have given of their time so tirelessly. I pay my respects, along with a heartfelt thank you, to the herculean effort of all of the past and present volunteers who have made this organisation what it is today. I am humbled on a daily basis by the commitment and passion shown by our volunteer’s year in and year out.

On a personal note 2016 was my last year as Chairman of this great organisation. It was with some sadness that I stepped away from the Board, but I did so knowing that the organisation was in a strong and stable position to thrive into the next 40 years.

As I reflect on my time as Chairman my lasting take away will be the joy that Special Olympics Australia brings into the lives of people with an intellectual disability and their families. It has been a privilege to have shared in that joy.

The 1976 of Australia, when Special Olympics Australia first began, was a different place than the Australia of today. We have come a long way since then and Special Olympics Australia will continue to provide a safe and encouraging space for people with an intellectual disability to push themselves and to have fun.

Here’s to 40 more amazing years!

**Nigel Milan AM**  
Chairman  
Special Olympics Australia



## FROM THE CEO

Special Olympics Australia has seen another successful year of delivering quality sport in a welcoming and fun environment for people with an intellectual disability right across the nation – well done everyone!

To our athletes, families, coaches, volunteers and supporters – thank you for embracing and being a part of the wonderful work we do.

Special Olympics Australia is an important organisation. It has a real impact on the health and well-being of people with an intellectual disability - giving them opportunities to do things that they might not have ever thought they could do. That we have been doing this for 40 years now is an amazing accomplishment and such a fantastic legacy for me to step into as CEO.

This was my first year in the role as CEO. My first aim was to get around the country to listen to everyone in the Special Olympics Australia family. I have worked hard this past year to listen and take on board feedback so that we can improve as an organisation and move forward as one.

We held a sports forum in August 2016 with our collective sports committees from around the country to share knowledge and discuss the sporting landscape in the years to come. We also held a whole of organisation governance review so that we could better ensure that our governance practices are the very best that they can be.

On the sporting front - in addition to our weekly training, regional competitions and State Games – the Trans Tasman Tournament was held in Hamilton New Zealand from the 25-27 November 2016. 120 Special Olympics Australia athletes travelled to New Zealand to compete against our sporting rivals across the Tasman Sea. As my first major Games as CEO I was delighted by the effort of our athletes and the sporting spirit that was on display. Congratulations to everyone involved.

To round out the year, in December 2016 we staged our first ever Special Olympics Australia ‘Dream Ride’. This was a fundraising event that gave our athletes the opportunity to have a ride in vintage and luxury cars. It was a very successful event that delivered a wonderful day for our athletes.

Thank you to everyone for their support throughout 2016. For 40 years our athletes have been the unsung pride of this nation. With your help let’s make sure Australia recognises the important place we hold in Australia’s sporting landscape.

**Corene Strauss**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Special Olympics Australia



## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL PARTNER

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) congratulates our National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) on their achievements this year. In particular, we congratulate all of our athletes who represented Australia in the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games. You did so with great distinction. The country is proud of your commitment and dedication, and the manner in which you conducted yourself throughout the campaigns.

In the aftermath of the Games, the Board of the ASC has re-committed to the core principles of Australia's Winning Edge, the ASC's ten year plan for high performance sport introduced in 2012. The four key principles are:

- high aspirations for achievement;
- evidence-based funding decisions;
- sports owning their own high performance programs;
- a strong emphasis on improved leadership and governance.

The ASC is equally committed to increasing community participation in sport, particularly amongst our children and youth. We have been pleased this year to see our flagship participation program Sporting Schools reach over 4,300 schools in partnership with NSOs.

Innovations by the ASC this year included the release of our Integrity Guidelines for Directors and Leaders of Sporting Organisations, which provides directors with comprehensive and practical guidance for the first time on anti-doping, sport science and medicine, illicit drugs, match-fixing, child protection and member protection – vital issues for maintaining trust and respect in the sporting sector.

We also staged our inaugural Athlete and Coaches Forum, giving Australia's elite athletes and coaches the opportunity to share their experiences and enhance their leadership capabilities.

And we were delighted to see fruits of our efforts to improve female opportunity in sports, with improved elite and participation opportunities in women's sport, better media exposure, some outstanding new commercial deals, and an increase in female representation at NSO board level from 27 per cent to a 39 per cent across the top 23 NSOs.

- Looking ahead, ASC priorities include:
- further institutional and governance reform in sport, with an emphasis on increased national integration and alignment
- increased funding for sport, including new non-government sources of funding
- further embedding sport in schools' educational programs

- improved national coordination of sports infrastructure spending, and
- Improved use of data and technology in sports.

Reforms like this are often hard to achieve but have profound long term benefits. The evermore competitive environment in world sport on display in Rio highlights the critical importance of further reform if Australia is to maintain its proud reputation and traditions as a sporting nation.

The ASC thanks all of our sector partners for your effort and contribution to Australian sport. We look forward to continued success and progress together.

**John Wylie AM**  
**Chair**  
**Australian Sports Commission**



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Sports Commission**



# Athlete Voice

I am an athlete leader and the athlete representative on the Board of Special Olympics Australia. It is my job to provide input to the Board so that decisions are made in the best interests of athletes. At the end of 2016 I was very excited that we brought another athlete representative onto the board to join me; Ruby Lawler. Ruby and I work to ensure that athlete voices are heard in Special Olympics Australia.

Athletes must be at the heart of everything we do at Special Olympics Australia as our goal is to provide the best sporting opportunities possible for athletes. To do this we must create inclusive and supportive environments.

Special Olympics Australia sits at the forefront of using sport to improve the lives of people with an intellectual disability. Sport is such an important tool - it builds confidence, develops skills, fosters inclusive environments, gives people the opportunity to make friends and to push themselves.

I encourage everyone – with or without an intellectual disability - to get involved with Special Olympics Australia. It is an organisation that strives to create true inclusivity in Australia.

**Ben Haack**  
Board Member, Athlete, Ambassador  
Special Olympics Australia



**“Let me win. But if i cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”**

Special Olympics athlete oath

## 2016 ATHLETE SNAPSHOT

**8,366**

**PARTICIPANTS**

**3,110**

**REGISTERED ATHLETES**

**17**

**SPORTS**

**88%**

**SATISFIED WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE**

**94%**

**LIKELY TO CONTINUE**





# Volunteer Voice

When our third child was born with Down syndrome in 1979, we sought swimming lessons to assist him with his physical development. When a friend suggested Special Olympics, we immediately knew we had found the ideal environment for him to develop. Not only did he blossom into a very good swimmer, but he found a network with which he could belong.

When, around 1990, we felt that the swimmers were not really mixing socially, (they were all simply swimming laps and not getting the chance to interact with each other) we organised a tenpin bowling day for them, as a social event. The response was terrific. The swimmers loved bowling and athletes from other sports soon joined in. The growth in numbers meant that we needed to officially form a new sport for our club. We even started receiving enquiries from people outside of Special Olympics to be part of our bowling team!

Today, we bowl at Forest Hill, where we takeover all of their 24 lanes and have the entire complex to ourselves. We currently have 115 bowlers registered and continue to receive enquiries from new prospective bowlers. Of course, we could not run bowling without the help of our fellow volunteers, parents and carers.

Whilst we have never sought personal recognition, it is a great honour to receive the Volunteer of the Year award. As Special Olympics Australia celebrates its 40th year, we feel privileged to represent the hundreds of volunteers around Australia who facilitate sport for people with an intellectual disability.

We would encourage the Australian community to get involved and share in the joy sport brings to the athletes of Special Olympics Australia.

**Mel & Terry McMahon**  
**Winners, 2016 Volunteer of the Year**  
**Special Olympics Australia**



## 2016 VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

**1,329**

**VOLUNTEERS**

**271**

**COACHES**

**48**

**CLUBS**

**82%**

**SATISFIED WITH  
THEIR EXPERIENCE**

**90%**

**LIKELY TO CONTINUE**





# Competition

## WORLD WINTER GAMES 2017



In February we announced a team of 12 athletes who will represent Australia at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria from 14-25 March 2017.

The athletes selected are: Alex Cherny (VIC), Luke Forster (QLD), Brenton Heslehurst (QLD), Amanda Kozik (VIC), Shaun McKee (QLD), Sara Molloy (VIC), Ben Pearce (VIC), Perrin Richardson (VIC), Kristian Sandercoe (ACT), Olivia Sayers (VIC) in Alpine skiing. David Champion (ACT), Craig Muhlbock (NSW) in Snowboarding.

They are supported by five volunteer officials: Sharyn Harris (Head of Delegation), Jeremy Smith (Head coach), Jeroen Leenders (Snowboard coach), Amanda Gannon, Mick Harris (Ski coaches) and two Special Olympics Australia staff members - Amanda Beehag and Lauren Camino.

The team held a training camp at Perisher in July 2016.

Australia will also be represented at the Games by Special Olympics Australia athlete Andrew Negrelli (VIC). Andrew is one of only ten athletes from around the world to be selected for the event. He will be joined by Law Enforcement Torch Run members from New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia to run with the Flame of Hope.

## PLATFORM TO SUCCESS

Participating in sport with Special Olympics Australia allows our athletes to explore many paths to national and international competition including: Paralympics, Trisome Games and Global Games. One Special Olympics Australia athlete, Nicole Harris (Sydney South, NSW), was selected in the Australian Paralympic athletics team to compete in Rio.

## JUNIOR NATIONAL GAMES 2017

The fourth Special Olympics Australia Junior National Games will be held from 3-7 July 2017 on the Gold Coast. The Games will see 130 athletes aged 8-15 represent their state competing in athletics, basketball, football and swimming at Runaway Bay Sports and Recreation Centre.



The Games are always a lively and vibrant event, bringing together many young athletes that are often competing at their first major competition away from home.

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

From 24-30 April 2016 16 golfers, four coaches and officials took part in the Golf Masters tournament in Macau. The tournament is hosted by Special Olympics Macau and attracts golfers from all over the world. The Australian golfers achieved outstanding results with four athletes winning their respective division and Australia winning the team event in Level 2 – Division 3.

The annual Cricket Invitation Games were held in Adelaide from 10-12 February 2016 involving 112 athletes and coaches from New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia. The games continues to grow and for the first time there were two divisions. We thank South Australia Cricket Association for their support in running this event.

**Top Left:** Team Australia for the Special Olympics World Winter Games at their training camp at Perisher, June 2016. Photo: Special Olympics Australia



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
WORLD WINTER GAMES  
AUSTRIA 2017  
Graz | Schladming | Ramsau | Styria

Heartbeat for the world



## UPCOMING MAJOR COMPETITIONS

**Special Olympics World Winter Games**  
14-25 March 2017, Austria

**Special Olympics Australia Junior National Games**  
3-7 July 2017, Gold Coast, Queensland

**Special Olympics Australia National Games**  
16-20 April 2018, Adelaide, South Australia

**Special Olympics World Summer Games**  
14-21 March 2019, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Action from the Trans Tasman: above, Jasmine Williams (QLD) competes in the long jump, below left, Andrea Penny and Louise Whatit (WA) at athletics, below centre, Caleb Smith and Edward Smith (NSW) are all smiles at aquatics and below right, Charlie Wilkins and Alicia Martino (SA) show off their medals. Photos: Penny Towns.



## TRANS TASMAN TOURNAMENT

The third Trans Tasman Tournament was held in Hamilton, New Zealand from 25-27 November 2016. Representing their state/territory, 120 Special Olympics Australia athletes competed alongside their mates from New Zealand in the sports of athletics and swimming.

The competition continues to be an important stepping stone in our competition pathways with many athletes experiencing their first taste of international competition and being part of an international team for the first time ever!

Some of the Special Olympics Australia athletes were part of a 34-strong group of global messengers from from both countries who took on leadership and volunteer roles at the event.

View highlights at [www.specialolympics.com.au/transtasman2016](http://www.specialolympics.com.au/transtasman2016)



**123 gold**  
**96 silver**  
**91 bronze**



# Sports Development

## OUR SPORTS

Special Olympics Australia offers weekly sports training for people with an intellectual disability in:

Athletics	Netball
Basketball	Sailing
Bocce	Softball
Cricket	Table Tennis
Equestrian	Tennis
Football	Tenpin Bowling
Golf	Winter Sports (Alpine skiing, ice-skating, snowboarding)
Gymnastics	

## Participation Highlights

### COMMUNITY SPORTS LINK

In 2016 1,940 school students participated in the Community Sports Link program. The students had the opportunity to develop sports skills over a 6 week period and showcase their skills at a sports gala day on completion of the program.

### UNIFIED SPORTS

Many of the Community Sports Gala days bring students with an intellectual disability and those without together to play sport. This helps change attitudes towards people with a disability and increases competition opportunities.

It is pleasing to report that the Unified Sports program in Darwin is well underway. Working in partnership with Total Recreation and Darwin Basketball, 20 athletes (12 athletes with an intellectual disability and 8 unified partners) are participating regularly across four sports – futsal, basketball, athletics and swimming. It is expected that some of these athletes will take part in the Junior National Games on the Gold Coast in July 2017.

### WINTER SPORTS

The Special Olympics Australia winter sports program continues to grow with a record 40 athletes from QLD, NSW, ACT and VIC participating over three weeks in August. Athletes also had the opportunity to put their training to the test at the New South Wales and Victoria Interschool's competitions at Thredbo and Mt Buller. The winter sports program is run in conjunction with Disabled Wintersports Australia.

## NBA ALL STAR UNIFIED GAME



Special Olympics Australia athlete Eliza Mills (NSW) was chosen by Special Olympics International to compete at the NBA All-Star game in Toronto, Canada from 12-14 February 2016.

The NBA All Star Unified Game sees NBA join forces with Special Olympics to promote Unified Sports, bringing together people with and without an intellectual disability to compete together at one of the world's premier sporting events.

## Developing Partnerships

### MAZDA FOUNDATION COACHING SUPPORT

In 2016 Mazda Foundation supported 52 coaches who completed sport specific training in a range of sports including athletics, basketball, football, gymnastics, netball, sailing, swimming, tennis, tenpin bowling and winter sports. Feedback from the coaches who completed the training was very positive, many telling us they have been energised from the training and feel they are now delivering better training sessions.

For the first time our winter sport co-ordinators and coaches had the opportunity to complete training delivered by Disabled Wintersports Australia. The six coaches who completed the training found it very beneficial and one of those coaches, Jeremy Smith was selected to be one of the coaches on the Australian team at the World Winter Games in Austria in March 2017.

### ANZ AND NETBALL

Thanks to the support of ANZ and Netball Australia, our netball program continued to grow with 620 students and athletes participating in NetSetGo. The grassroots program was delivered in schools and Special Olympics Australia clubs in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, in conjunction with local associations. Netball was also included in interclub competitions and State Games for the first time.

## ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA

During 2016 we developed a partnership with Athletics Australia for the delivery of athletics in the Sporting Schools program. A program was piloted in Melbourne where we trained a group of young coaches (from SEDA program) to deliver the junior athletics program (IAAF Nestlé Healthy Active Kids' Athletics) in schools in and around Melbourne. We are looking to identify more coaches and roll out the program in other states.

## GYMNASTICS VICTORIA

We worked closely with Gymnastics Victoria in 2016 to pilot the delivery of the Special Olympics Young Athletes program. Two Victorian gymnastics clubs rolled out the program during 2016. The feedback from the parents and participants has been very positive and there has been a steady increase in the number of participants. We thank Gymnastics Victoria for their support and we are now in discussions with Gymnastics Australia about rolling out the program across Australia.

## GOLF AUSTRALIA AND GOLF NSW

In October Special Olympics Australia, the NSW Government and Golf NSW announced an exciting new partnership to bring golf to more athletes with an intellectual disability across NSW.

The partnership sees golf clubs across the state host a series of play and learn days which provide people with an intellectual disability access to quality coaching with a view to allowing them to experience the community aspect of playing in a club environment.

## SPORTS FORUM

In August, sports volunteers and staff – new and experienced – came together in Sydney to discuss the future of sport at Special Olympics Australia, review selection policies and hear from experts like Andrew Ramsey of the Australian Sports Commission. It was a rare opportunity to listen to our experts on the ground and share knowledge face to face.

**Top Left:** Eliza Mills in action at the NBA All Star Unified Game in Toronto, February 2016. Photo: Special Olympics Inc.

**Below:** (centre left) Mr. John Sidoti MP – Member for Drummoyne, (centre, right) Golf NSW CEO Stuart Fraser with Special Olympics athletes (left to right) Emma Nelson, Jason Nelson, Melissa Etherton, Holly Levers, Brooke McGrath and Jessica Cutner (Macarthur Club) at the launch of the partnership between Special Olympics Australia and Golf NSW. Photo: Peter Muhlbock.



# The First Inclusive Logo

In October, Special Olympics Australia announced that Adelaide would be the host city for the National Summer Games to be held 16-20 April 2018.

We were delighted to partner with Taste Creative to develop the first inclusive logo. The logo was co-created by Henry Smith from Taste and renowned artist and former Special Olympics Australia athlete Digby Webster. Digby is known for his bold and colourful oil pastel and ink artwork and has had his artwork showcased in an impressive number of exhibitions across the country.

The logo silhouette captures the joy of movement that comes from sport. The triumphant stance evokes expressions from sport: a victorious athlete crossing the finish line, slam-dunking of a basketball, leaping for joy or cheering on from the sidelines. It captures the joy, enthusiasm and celebration of Special Olympics Australia while also referencing a flickering flame, a nurturing hand of support and a heart.

The showpiece event of the Special Olympics Australia sporting calendar, the Games will feature around 1,000 athletes across 11 sports, supported by 900 volunteers.



Special Olympics Australia  
**National Games**  
**Adelaide 2018**



## THE CREATIVE TEAM



Artist and former Special Olympics Australia athlete Digby Webster.

## THE ARTWORK



Simpson Desert artwork created by Digby Webster.



Brighton Pier artwork created by Digby Webster.



Digby Webster and Henry Smith, Creative Director at Taste Creative at the launch of the Games in Adelaide. Photo: Laura Vanags Photography.

## SAVE THE DATE

Special Olympics Australia  
National Summer Games

16-20 April 2018

Adelaide, South Australia





# Our Patron

## OLYMPIC TEAM WELCOME

On the 29 August we were delighted to be invited to Admiralty House by our Patron, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Lady Cosgrove to officially welcome home the Australian Olympic Team from the Rio Olympics.

It was a thrill, not just for the 100 Special Olympics Australia athletes in attendance, but also for the Olympians, who appreciated the joy that was brought to the occasion.

Olympic champion and team captain Anna Meares summed up their feelings when she said, "These kids have got the most beautiful energy and attitude and I just love it."

This is the first function of its kind Special Olympics Australia has been involved in, with many friendships formed between fellow athletes. The reception was featured on the nightly news by each major television network.



## THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

The Olympics, Paralympics and Special Olympics believe in the power of sport to change lives, yet each organisation is quite different.

- The **Olympics** is a major event for elite athletes without a disability.
- The **Paralympics** is a major event for elite athletes with a disability, mainly physical.
- **Special Olympics** is a year-round program of sports training and competition for people with an intellectual disability of all skill levels.

All Special Olympics activities reflect the values, standards, traditions, ceremonies, and events embodied in the modern Olympic movement. These Olympic-type activities have been broadened and enriched to celebrate the moral and spiritual qualities of persons with intellectual disabilities so as to enhance their dignity and self-esteem.

### Photos from top to bottom:

The Governor-General and Lady Cosgrove with athlete Akanksha Swarup (Sydney Upper North Shore, NSW);

Olympian Cate Campbell with athletes (left to right) Ryan O'Connor, Clare Pearson, Danielle Slade & Adrian Soliman-Ford (Sydney South, NSW);

Special Olympics Australia athlete Peter Webb (Macarthur, NSW) mingles with Olympic Rugby players (left to right) Nicole Beck, Ellia Green & Amy Turner;

Australian Olympic Team captain Anna Meares walks into Admiralty House to the cheers of Special Olympics Australia athletes.

Photos: Peter Muhlbock.

# Celebrating 40 Years

In 2016, Special Olympics Australia celebrated its 40th year providing regular sports training and competition for people with an intellectual disability. Here are some of the ways it was commemorated:

- Special Olympics Inc. Chairman Tim Shriver and CEO Mary Davis sent personalised video messages of congratulations.
- As the anniversary fell on the 29 February, a campaign to 'leap for Special Olympics' was held on social media, with athletes, volunteers and supporters taking a leap to celebrate the occasion.
- A dedicated history website was launched at [www.specialolympics.com.au/40years](http://www.specialolympics.com.au/40years).

Take a trip down memory lane and learn about some of the key moments which make up the wonderful journey of Special Olympics Australia.



## 1983 | THE FIRST TEAM AUSTRALIA



In 1983, a team of eight athletes represented Australia in aquatics and athletics at the International Special Olympics Summer Games in Baton Rouge, USA. This was the first time Special Olympics Australia had been represented at international level and they won 17 medals.

## 1986 | INAUGURAL NATIONAL GAMES



The first Special Olympics Australia National Games were held in Launceston, Tasmania. From 21-22 November, 200 athletes competed in aquatics, athletics, football and gymnastics. The Games were attended by Mark Kennedy Shriver, representing his mother and founder of the global Special Olympics movement, Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

## 1997 | WINTER GAMES APPEARANCE



A team of 14 athletes represented Australia in floor hockey at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Toronto, Canada. They returned home with gold, silver and bronze medals.

## 2004 | FIRST JUNIOR NATIONAL GAMES



The first Junior National Games were held in Launceston, Tasmania, providing athletes 8-15 years, like Chris Bunton (above) the opportunity to compete at a national level.

## 1976 | THE EARLY EVIDENCE



On 29 February 1976 – a leap day – Dr John Day was presented with this medal from Special Olympics. It is the earliest piece of evidence that we have in our treasure box to show that Special Olympics was underway in Australia.

## 1979 | MINI OLYMPICS



In 1979, sporting activities for people with an intellectual disability started to gain traction with the first Mini Olympics held in Launceston (TAS). The event was supported by Special Olympics Victoria and the Kennedy Foundation.

## 1987 | ON THE WORLD STAGE



A team of 23 athletes represented Australia in aquatics, athletics and football at the International Summer Special Olympics Games in South Bend, Indiana, USA. Billed as the largest amateur sports event in 1987, the Games were covered in Sports Illustrated and Time, and reached more than 150 million people worldwide.

## 1991 | AUSTRALIA WIDE



In May, the first State Games were held in WA with a total of 44 athletes who competed in aquatics, athletics and tenpin bowling. 53 athletes represented Australia in aquatics, athletics, basketball, football (soccer) and gymnastics at the International Special Olympics Summer Games in Minneapolis, USA.

## 2010 | RUN WITH THE LAW



Over 2,000 runners carried the Flame of Hope through 43 towns in 29 days in the lead up to the National Games in Adelaide. A joint initiative of Special Olympics Australia and LETR, it was the largest awareness, fundraising and community engagement event ever.

## 2013 | HITTING THE SLOPES



Our first ever wintersports team competes at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. Australia was represented by four Alpine skiers and one snowboarder, bringing home 13 medals: 3 gold, 6 silver and 4 bronze.



# Raising Funds & Awareness

## IGA PROMOTION

In August a national IGA Community Chest Promotion raised \$194,618. The campaign engaged Special Olympics clubs across Australia, with 21 clubs connecting with local IGA stores and 13 holding in-store fundraising or awareness raising activities.

50% of funds raised were distributed to clubs, with participating clubs being rewarded additional funds for their engagement efforts. The campaign also featured in the IGA catalogue which is distributed to 4 million households, as well as significant social media activity.

IGA are a long-serving partner of Special Olympics Australia and in 2017 we will celebrate 25 years of their support.



## NORTON ROSE FULLBRIGHT

A series of staff fundraising events were held by Norton Rose Fulbright, including a mini-Olympics and trivia night as part of their Summer Clerks initiative, which together raised over \$9,000 for Special Olympics Australia.

In addition, they provided pro bono support in a number of areas, including a report on Supported Decision Making practice, valued at \$81,200.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) continues to be a major supporter of Special Olympics Australia programs across the country.

In June, over 60 NSW police officers took the plunge at Bondi Icebergs to support the Commissioner's Challenge, an event organised by LETR NSW to raise funds for Special Olympics Australia. Attended by NSW Police Commissioner, Andrew Scipione, NSW Governor David Hurley and a host of senior NSW Police Officers the event raised over \$85,000.

NSW LETR invested in the future of Special Olympics in NSW and ACT, funding uniforms for 15 clubs and supporting athletes to go to the Trans Tasman Tournament. LETR NSW also funded a new version of the Soey the Joey mascot.

In December, LETR Victoria held a torch run with local Special Olympics Australia athletes to celebrate International Day of People with a Disability, presenting a cheque for \$43,000 to Special Olympics Australia. LETR Victoria were also honoured at the LETR International Conference for the largest percentage program growth of 310%.

A special congratulations to NSW LETR president Scott Whyte on being inducted into the LETR Hall of Fame and being appointed as Chairman of the LETR Executive Council, the first non-US representative to be appointed.



Mark Garwood, IGA General Manager Supermarkets, presents a cheque to Special Olympics Australia CEO Corene Strauss. Photo: Special Olympics Australia.



Scott Whyte, Chair of the International LETR Executive Council with Special Olympics Australia athlete Sandy Freeman (Sydney West, NSW) at the Commissioners Challenge at Bondi Icebergs in June 2016. Photo: Peter Muhlbock.

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Special Olympics Australia fundraising events continue to be a successful source of fundraising and awareness. In 2016, 23 events were conducted in five cities around Australia. Some of the highlights include:

- The annual Variety Dinner, themed 'You're the voice' celebrated it's 11th year, with almost 500 attendees at The Big Top Luna Park.
- The 5th Special Olympics Cup was held at ANZ Stadium between National Rugby League clubs South Sydney Rabbitohs and Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs in front of almost 15,000 spectators. Each club also held a mini-Olympics day with Special Olympics Australia athletes engaging with players and staff.
- The Inspirational Women's Breakfast in Sydney, hosted by ambassador Peter Overton, sold out for the fifth year in a row. Breakfasts were also held in Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne.
- Ambassador Paula Duncan's Up Close and Personal Dinner and Harbour Cruise have become key annual events on the Special Olympics Australia calendar, providing an avenue to new audiences and diverse entertainment.

Special Olympics Australia reached out to over 2,000 corporate organisations at these events. We would like to thank the many sponsors, guests speakers and performers who gave their time to help raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Australia at these events.

## SPLASH

One of our most popular fundraising events, the Special Olympics SPLASH swimming challenge brought together 14 corporate teams who competed for the chance to team up with Olympic, Paralympic and Special Olympics Australia athletes, including event ambassador Geoff Huegill.



Held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, team members were encouraged to raise funds for Special Olympics Australia through their local networks. The event raised over \$57,000.

After a very close contest, the winners trophy was taken out by McGrath Nicol, just in front of Macquarie Group and Altis.

## ICAP CHARITY DAY

In December 2016, Special Olympics Australia was part of the ICAP Charity Day, raising \$65,000. This single-day worldwide charity event sees ICAP, a leading markets operator, engage with a select number of charities and donate all their revenue and commissions from this day.

On the day, Special Olympics Australia athletes and ambassadors like comedians Rob Shehadie and Tahir Bilgic (pictured below) engaged with ICAP employees in their office.



The Special Olympics Dance Performance Group entertain the crowd at the Dream Ball in February 2016. Photo: Peter Muhlbock.



Special Olympics Australia ambassadors, comedians Rob Shehadie and Tahir Bilgic engage with customers at the ICAP Charity Day in December 2016. Photo: Special Olympics Australia.



Left & centre: Special Olympics Australia athletes Daniel Vickers (Lamborghini) and Patrick May (Morgan) enjoy their Dream Rides. Right: Dream Ride ambassador Sandra Sully with Special Olympics Australia athlete and board member Ruby Lawler at Luna Park in Sydney. Photos: Peter Muhlbock.

# Inaugural Dream Ride Australia

The first Dream Ride Australia was held at Sydney Motorsport Park on 4 December 2016. Special Olympics Australia athletes and people with an intellectual disability were given the opportunity for a dream ride in a luxury car around the world class racing track.

The event was supported by six luxury car brands, with each of the morning rides departing from an iconic Sydney venue. The rides were:

- **Aston Martin** from Luna Park
- **Lamborghini** from Manly Beach
- **Mustang** from Blue Mountains
- **Ferrari & Corvette** from Mrs Macquaries Chair
- **Morgans** from Barangaroo

In addition, two motor bike rides were held, from Mt Panorama in Bathurst and from the Sydney Opera House.

Car drivers and bike riders engaged in fundraising for Special Olympics Australia, making it the biggest fundraiser on the national calendar.

Dream Ride could not have happened without the kind support of Ritchies IGA, Romeos Group, ARDC/Sydney Motorsport Park, Family and Community Services and APN Outdoor.

 **300** DREAM RIDES

**102**  CLASSIC CARS

 **114** MOTOR BIKES



**1000+** LAPS OF SYDNEY MOTORSPORT PARK



Special Olympics Australia athlete Kelly Wren, part of team Aston Martin. Photo: Peter Muhlbock



## AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) continued its support of Special Olympics Australia with its recognition of our National Sporting Organisation for Disability (NSOD) status. The ASC is our Principal Partner and single largest funder.

### Governance Review

The ASC recognised the effort that we have been putting into improving the governance of the organisation and awarded us a grant to undertake a review of governance and structure across all levels of the organisation. An independent company was engaged to undertake an in depth review of Club, Zone and Head Office governance practices and make recommendations for improvement. We are now acting on those recommendations to ensure that as an organisation we uphold best practice in our governance.

### National Safeguarding Children in Sport Strategy

The ASC commenced the second phase of the National Safeguarding Children in Sport Strategy (NSCSS) which aims to support national sporting organisations (NSO) to achieve greater levels of child protection within their sport. Part of this included the ASC engaging the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) to conduct organisational readiness assessments which were offered to the 64 funded NSOs. Special Olympics Australia is fully committed to safeguarding children in sport and cooperated fully to the readiness assessments conducted by the ACF. The ASC will release their final report on the outcomes of the readiness assessments in 2017.

## POLICY REVIEW

In the second half of 2016, a working group was established to review and update all of the Special Olympics Australia policies and procedures. It was important for everyone involved with Special Olympics Australia that there was a single repository for all our policies. This was a mammoth task, but one that will set the organisation in good stead in years to come. Special mention goes to the volunteers on the working group that have assisted on this project: Jillene Delahunty (Barwon, VIC), Annette Dundas (North Western Zone), Naomi Pugsley (Adelaide, SA), Moira Ryde (Southern Zone) and Geoff Vickers (Sydney South, NSW).

## COMPLIANCE

Special Olympics Australia ensures that it adheres to the compliance requirements of our three key regulatory bodies; the ASC, Australian Charities and NFPs Commission (ASCNC) and Special Olympics Inc. In addition we have continued to show year on year improvement in the audit process undertaken by KPMG.

## NATIONAL BOARD

In 2016 we appointed an additional athlete representative to the Board – Ruby Lawler (Gladstone, QLD). Ruby joins Ben Haack (Gold Coast, QLD) to ensure that athletes needs stay top-of-mind at all levels of the organisation.

Ruby is an active member of her local swim club and Special Olympics Gladstone where she swims and plays bocce. Outside of Special Olympics she regularly volunteers at the RSPCA and is committed to investing in her local community as a Youth Ambassador with Gladstone Community Linking Agency.

## MEMBER PROTECTION REVIEW

Special Olympics Australia engaged the services of Westwood Spice to conduct a comprehensive review of our member protection policy and practice. This was an important step in demonstrating our ongoing commitment to protecting our athletes and volunteers who support our organisation. A number of initiatives that came out of the review included a new single code of conduct for everyone including an easy read version for athletes, a revised complaint handling process and clarification of the role of the member protection information officer within Special Olympics Australia. These initiatives are aimed at creating a safer environment for all athletes.

## NEW WEBSITE

In October we introduced a new version of our website. This signified a significant step forward, with the new site having an updated modern design, responsive to different devices and a new find my club postcode search feature.

## CLUB LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK

After an extensive review a new Club Leadership Handbook was distributed to clubs in May and will be reviewed on a regular basis moving forward. The handbook was intended as a resource to support clubs with better decision-making and to foster good governance practices.

## VISUAL IDENTITY GUIDELINES

A simplified Visual Identity Guidelines was introduced to align ourselves appropriately with the brand guidelines set out by Special Olympics Inc. while making it easier for clubs to produce their own branded materials.



## VALE LEON BURWELL OAM

**“The best way to change any negative misconceptions about people with intellectual disabilities is to focus on the positive. If you pursue happiness it will elude you. If you take an interest in others and do your best it will find you.” - Leon Burwell OAM**

The Special Olympics Australia community was devastated on 4 March 2016 with the news that pioneering volunteer – Mr Leon Burwell OAM – otherwise known as “Mr Special Olympics” had passed away.

Leon led teams to international competition and played significant roles in Special Olympics at club, state, national and international level. He is remembered as a founder of the thriving Special Olympics Hunter Valley club and is a legend of the basketball community across Special Olympics and mainstream sport. Leon was inducted into the Special Olympics Australia Hall of Fame in 2002.

On 20 March 2016, a tribute was held to Leon in Newcastle, just prior to the first round of the basketball competition named in his honour, the Leon Burwell Cup. Athletes, volunteers, club members, board and staff were all in attendance to pay tribute to Leon.

A photo book of Leon’s moments with Special Olympics Australia, as well as a dedicated website was produced to pay tribute to Leon.

Above: Leon Burwell at the 2006 National Summer Games on the Gold Coast.



# Our Community

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our 1,329 volunteers make a significant contribution to our sporting community and help support our athletes achieve their personal best. Volunteers are vital in contributing their time and talent, week in week out, in roles as diverse as coaching, fundraising, event support, club administration and mentoring. Our organisation would not exist without this generous support.

## VOLUNTEER SATISFACTION

In 2016, volunteer feedback through our annual satisfaction survey told us that the main reasons for volunteering was seeing athletes confidence improve, watching the joy of athletes and contributing to a worthwhile cause. In the survey, 90% of volunteers indicated that they will continue volunteering with Special Olympics Australia.

## NEW NATIONAL AWARDS

A range of new awards were introduced to recognise the many people that make the Special Olympics Australia community rich, rewarding and welcoming. The awards and their winners were:

### Athlete of the year

Brooke McGrath, Macarthur, NSW

### Young athlete of the year

Koby Banks, Illawarra, NSW

### Coach of the year

Liz Ewen, Brisbane, QLD

### Young coach of the year

Melinda Ney, Hunter Valley, NSW

### Volunteer of the year

Melda & Terry McMahan, Melbourne Inner East, VIC

### Young volunteer of the year

not awarded



## EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER (EKS) AWARD

The EKS Award is open to all Special Olympics Australia athletes and is presented annually to an athlete who has shown great leadership skills, both on and off the sporting field. Two outstanding athletes were recognised: Nicole Bartley (QLD) and Martin Smith (QLD). They were selected from 9 nominees from 9 different clubs across Australia.

The winners were announced on EKS day, named in honour of the founder of Special Olympics, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, which is celebrated on the fourth Saturday of September each year. The awards will be officially presented in early 2017.

## CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Public recognition of the contribution of our volunteers is an important part of acknowledging the vital work that is being done around the country. A number of volunteers were nominated for community awards to celebrate their continuing commitment to Special Olympics Australia. Some of these include:

- Melinda Nay (Hunter Valley, NSW) and Karen Levers (Macarthur, NSW) were finalists at the annual NSW Community Sports Awards.
- Ruth Blanch (North West New England, NSW) in the NSW Premiers Volunteer Recognition for her significant contribution to volunteering.
- Gaye Sheehan (North West New England, NSW) was a regional winner of the Volunteering NSW Awards
- Moira Ryde (Southern Zone) was a finalist in the Victorian Premier's Volunteer Champions Awards

## 10 YEARS OF THE BLUE BRIGADE

In 2006, hundreds of volunteers, many without a relative with a disability, signed up to help host the Special Olympics Australia National Games on the Gold Coast. Many of these volunteers are still involved on a regular basis with the Gold Coast (QLD) club where they are affectionately known as the Blue Brigade because of their striking uniforms. In 2016, these wonderful volunteers celebrated 10 years of support.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Our clubs continue to engage with their local communities to spread the word of Special Olympics. Some of the activities in 2016 included:

- In August the City of Bunbury got behind Special Olympics Australia when the Law Enforcement Torch Run hit town to kick off a family fun day. Over 50 police officers joined the South West club (WA) to carry the Flame of Hope.
- The Moreton North club (QLD) and local community got behind the Miles4Miles Fun Run, the brainchild of athlete Miles Franklin who wanted to raise money to get himself and teammates to the Trans Tasman Tournament.
- In Adelaide (SA), 80 runners from Special Olympics Australia took part in the City to Bay Fun Run/Walk with athlete Amechai Bawden finishing the 12km run in just 44 minutes.
- Volunteers Jihad and Sara Rasheed from Adelaide threw a black-tie event for 110 people in their own home to raise funds for Special Olympics Australia.
- The Logan (QLD) club beat 16 nominees to be named as the Sports Organisation of the Year at the Audi City of Logan Sports Awards.



# Around Australia



## ACT & NEW SOUTH WALES

- A total of 57 competitions were held with 3,117 athletes competing at an average of 44 athletes per competition.
- Held 45 school programs across 21 schools for 1,005 students.
- Golf Partnership established with Golf NSW to introduce golf to people with an intellectual disability in five targeted areas.
- Equestrian programs established in Northern NSW (Cessnock) and Southern NSW (Oakdale). A selection event will be held in 2017 to send NSW/ACT athletes to the National Games for the first time.
- Development of the schools program and after school football program in Grafton (Northern NSW) and expansion of the schools program in the Sydney Hills district.
- Round 1 of the Leon Burwell Shield held in Newcastle in honour of Leon who passed away in March. 85 athletes attended and moving tributes were given to Leon by Lorraine Clark (Northern Beaches), Carmen Dederer (State Basketball Coordinator) and two athletes from Hunter Valley.
- Three athletes from ACT and 49 athletes from NSW competed at the Trans Tasman Tournament.



## QUEENSLAND

- 65 competitions held featuring over 2,500 individual entries.
- A Young Athletes Program was developed with Gymnastics Queensland, including a membership waiver agreement.
- A Unified swim school was established at Stafford with over 50 new members.
- Table Tennis was introduced, attracting 38 athletes.
- A new Chair and members of the State sports working group were established, now directing and supporting sports growth with many years experience being reinvested into the program.



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- Sports competition held across seven sports, as well as participating in four other sports hosted by other sporting bodies.
- Sent 8 athletes to the Trans Tasman Tournament in New Zealand, including three from regional areas.
- Over 500 students from education support schools attended two multisport days held with the Perth Metro and South West clubs.
- Sailing program underway for the first time in Western Australia.
- A team was entered in the Netball WA State Championships for the first time, finishing second.

Special Olympics Australia athletes line up with their State flags at the Opening Ceremony of the athletics at the Trans Tasman Tournament. Photo: Penny Towns.





## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- A continued growth in athletes and volunteers, including the formation of two new clubs with working teams.
- Working alongside State Sporting Organisations and local clubs (Basketball SA, Cricket SA, Para Hills Football Club & Enfield Harriers) to further opportunities for athletes to participate in sport.
- Expansion of our schools program to include five new schools, including the introduction of Unified Sports events.
- Sent eight athletes (4 aquatics, 4 athletics) to the Trans Tasman Tournament in New Zealand.



## TASMANIA

- 272 students participated in the Community Sports Link program in Tasmania.
- 8 athletes took part in an 8 week cricket program, delivered in partnership with Cricket Tasmania.
- A netball Come and Try Day was held in July with 36 participants, many of whom registered for a NetSetGo program.
- There were two 3on3 basketball competitions held with 20 participants taking part.
- 4 athletes were selected to represent Tasmania in the Trans Tasman Tournament.



## VICTORIA

- Development of partnerships with Golf Australia (Sand belt schools program), FFV (club partnership training), Athletics Victoria (High-performance training session at State Games) to increase the frequency and quality of sports training.
- In partnership with Gymnastics Victoria, the Young Athlete Program has grown to include 5 new centres delivering the program.
- Establishment of a club forum (meeting every 6 weeks) to provide opportunities for clubs to network around sports development and governance.

## OUR CLUBS

- Adelaide, SA
- Ballarat, VIC
- Barwon, VIC
- Bendigo, VIC
- Blue Mountains, NSW
- Brisbane, QLD
- Bundaberg, QLD
- Canberra, ACT
- Central Coast, NSW
- Central West, NSW
- Dandenong Valley, VIC
- Echuca Campaspe, VIC
- Flinders, NSW
- Gladstone, QLD
- Gold Coast, QLD
- Gympie, QLD
- Hunter Valley, NSW
- Illawarra, NSW
- Logan, QLD
- Macarthur, NSW
- Mackay, QLD
- Melbourne Eastern Ranges, VIC
- Melbourne Inner East, VIC
- Melbourne North, VIC
- Melbourne Southern, VIC
- Melbourne West, VIC
- Mid North Coast, NSW
- Moreton North, QLD
- North Coast, NSW
- North West New England, NSW
- North West Tasmania, TAS
- Northern Tasmania, TAS
- Ovens & Murray, VIC
- Perth Metro, WA
- Redlands, QLD
- South Coast, NSW
- South West, WA
- Southern Tasmania, TAS
- Spencer Gulf, SA
- Sunshine Coast, QLD
- Sydney East, NSW
- Sydney Hills, NSW
- Sydney Inner West, NSW
- Sydney Northern Beaches, NSW
- Sydney South, NSW
- Sydney Upper North Shore, NSW
- Sydney West, NSW
- Westernport, VIC



# Board of Directors

**Our board members continue to be powerful advocates for Special Olympics Australia, bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge to the organisation.**



## 1. Nigel Milan AM (Chairman)

Nigel has had a long and distinguished career in television and broadcasting, in both the public and private sectors, in Australia and New Zealand. Nigel has also held CEO roles in service delivery organisations and has sat on the Board of numerous not for profits, Government and private organisations. Appointed 9 July 2012. Ceased 30 November 2016.

## 2. Cameron Brownjohn (Vice Chairman)

Cameron is a career investment banker and is currently Division Director of Macquarie Capital's Principal Investments division. Cameron was competitive at a state and national level across a range of sports. In addition to combining his passions for sport & the community, Cameron brings his business acumen, corporate knowledge and fiscal skills to the Board. Appointed 2 May 2014 and was appointed as Chairman 30 November 2016.

## 3. Michael Hogan

Michael has completed a long career in the areas of public affairs, public profile management, policy analysis and government relations. He is a passionate believer in the work of Special Olympics Australia as the parent of a son with Down syndrome. Michael believes Special Olympics Australia provides and nourishes an important set of opportunities in the sport and recreational arenas. Appointed 9 July 2012.

## 4. Ben Haack

As a Special Olympics athlete, coach, volunteer and leader, Ben brings vast experience to his role on the Board. He has played sport at all levels and has completed Athlete Leadership training. Ben is currently a member of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Leadership Council, a Special Olympics International (SOI) Board Director, a member of the SOI International Advisory Committee and a member of the SOI Research and Public Policy Committee. Appointed 26 May 2012.

## 5. Irena Reiss

Irena is a practicing lawyer with an extensive career providing high level commercial advice and dispute resolution services to a broad client base including the corporate, private and public sectors. Irena has an understanding of the needs of people with an intellectual disability having served at an executive club level and as a parent of a Special Olympics athlete. Irena's passion for Special Olympics Australia is driven by a long standing commitment to human rights and social responsibility. Appointed 30 May 2015.

## 6. Shaun Fraser

Shaun is a Chartered Accountant with over 26 years' experience including over 14 years with one of the Big 4 Accounting firms where he worked in both Australia and the United States. Shaun was a founding partner of boutique advisory firm McGrathNicol where he is currently a Partner and leads the firm's Corporate Advisory business. Shaun has spent most of his career assisting companies, boards and stakeholders through difficult situations. Appointed 30 May 2015.

## 7. Anna-Louise Kassulke

Anna-Louise has worked in the sport and disability sector for 30 years and has experience in project development and leadership. She was instrumental in establishing Special Olympics Australia in Queensland and has served in a variety of capacities since 1988, including State Director of Sport and Training and Head of Delegation for the Australian team at the 2007, 2011 and 2015 World Games. Appointed 30 October 2015.

## 8. Allison O'Shea

Allison has an extensive and diverse professional background with over 25 years in the Finance, Law, Insurance, Tourism Technology, Health and Sports industries and Philanthropy. Currently she runs her own leadership consultancy business. Allison is passionate about the key mission and purpose of Special Olympics. Appointed 17 February 2016.



# Board & Partners

## 9. Nicole Swaine

Nicole has over 10 years experience in the disability sector including over four years as the CEO of Spastic Centres of South Australia where she oversaw programs that included sport participation for adults with disabilities. Nicole is a member of AICD and has sat on numerous sporting and disability Boards. Appointed 29 April 2016.

## 10. Megan Lavender

Megan is an experienced director having served on a number of Boards including corporate, government and Not for Profits. Her experience spans marketing, consulting, public relations and corporate affairs and sporting organisations. Megan has served as a Ministerial Advisor to the Australian Minister for Sport, Minister for Tourism and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Sydney 2000 Games. Appointed 29 April 2016.

## 11. Ruby Lawler

Ruby is an active member of Special Olympics Gladstone and her local swim club. She regularly volunteers at the RSPCA and is committed to investing in her local community as a Youth Ambassador with Gladstone Community Linking Agency. Of her appointment, Ruby said, "I am excited to work alongside Ben to represent Special Olympics athletes". Appointed 4 November 2016.

## NATIONAL AMBASSADORS

Tahir Bilgic (Comedian), James Bracey (Nine News Anchor), Stephanie Brantz (ESPN Presenter), Iva Davies (Australian Music Legend), Paula Duncan (Actor), John Foreman (Musical Director and Composer), Amber Lawrence (Singer and Songwriter), Jim Maxwell (ABC Cricket Commentator), Todd McKenney (Entertainer), Peter Overton (Nine Network), Rob Shehadie (Comedian), Craig Wing (Rugby player)

## NATIONAL PARTNERS

### Principal Partner



### Gold Partners

IGA

### Silver Partners

Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, SAS

### Coaching Partner

Mazda Foundation

### Netball Partner

ANZ

### Medal Presentation Partner

OTIS

### Media Partner

News Limited

### Property Partner

Goodman

## SUPPORTERS

Adam Ladell, Adpost Online, All About Travel, Altis Property Group, Angioe Paskevicius, Anglo Motorsport, Anne Floyd, ANZ Bank, ANZ Stadium, A-One Promotions, APN Outdoor, ARDC, ARN, Arvind Naidu, Aspen Medical, Aston Martin Car Club, ATC, Audrey Wilkinson Wines, Australian Wedding Flowers, Barker College Big Band, Barrangaroo Delivery Authority, BAT, Bathurst Regional Council, Beccy Cole, Blacktown Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Botanic Gardens & Centennial Parklands, Boys in the Band, Brad Forman, Brendan Jones, Brendan Ryan, Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs, Canterbury Bankstown Club, Capital Investment Group, Central Blue Mountains Rotary Club, Channel 9, Chris Jackson, Christina Matthews, Ciaran Gribbin, CIC Australia, Cisco, Cleaning Solutions, ClubsNSW, Coopers, Corporate Challenge Events, Craig Sheridan, Craig Stevens, Dan Crowley, Daniel Townes, Danny Faifai, Definitive Events, Deluxe Products, dVT Group, Emirates, ESI, Evans &

Evans, Excalibre Events, FAC's, Far Out Adventures, Ferrari Australasia, Ferrari Club Australia, Fit for a King, Forces Command, Four'N Twenty, Freshflowers.com.au, FTI Consulting, Geoff Huegill, Gerry Harvey, Glennis Clifton, Goodman Fielder, Gorgi Coghlan, Graham Brimage, Hamilton Island, Hellenic Club of Canberra, ICAP Australia, IGA, Impact Executive Solutions, Inspire Strategic Solutions, Iva Davies, Jacob Hansford, Jessica Orscik, Joanna Camerich Furniture, John Foreman, John Trevillian AM, Johnno Cotterill, Julie McDonald, Justice Crew, Karni Liddell, Keesja Gofers, Kim McKay, Lamborghini Car Club, Lamborghini Sydney, Laurie Lawrence, Lexus | Parramatta, LG, Libby O'Donovan, Lindley Edwards, Lisa Alexander, Luna Park Venues, Macquarie Group, Marion Fulker, Mark Turner, Matthew Dunn, McGrathNicol, MediaSmiths, Melissa Cuturich, Merv Hughes, Michael Bozzuto, Michelle Forrester, Mitzi Gardner, Morgan Car Club, Mustang Car Club, Naomi Simpson, Network of Caring, Network Ten, Network21, New South Wales Corvette Club, Newington Lindfield, Nick McCallum, Nicola Ziggy Zagame, Nikki Bart, Nineounces, North Steyne Surf Club, North Sydney Council, Northern Beaches Council, NOVA Employment, NRL, O'Maras in alliance with Graysonline, P&O Cruises, Pages Hire, Paul Gildea, Paul Martell, Paula Duncan AM, Perisher Manor Hotel, Peter Hadfield, Peter Overton, Praise, Prestige Safaris, Quay Restaurant, Ray Badran, Riad Tayeh, Ritchies Supa IGA, Rob Shehadie, Robbie Griffiths, Romeos Retail Group, Ronni Hurst, Rory Muscat, Ross's Valuers & Auctioneers, RSM Australia, Sally Carbon, San Remo, Sandra Sully, SAS Institute Australia, Shannons, SMD Events, SMEG, SOP Business Association, South Sydney Rabbitohs, STAX Electrical, Steven Richards, Suelen McCallum, Suncorp, Sydney Boulevard Hotel, Sydney Comedy Festival, Sydney Harbour Escapes, Sydney Markets, Sydney Motorsport Park, Sydney Opera House, Sydney Wedding Flowers, TAFTA, Tahir Bilgic, Talent Development Group, Taste Creative, Taylor Corry, Terry Corby, The Classic Safari Company, The Collective, The Epping Club, The Formula Co., The HABIBS, The Pratt Foundation, The RAT Pack, The Westpac Group, Tim Gavel, Tim Gossage, Todd Greenburg, Todd McKenney, Trivett, Unique Estates, Vittoria Coffee, World Wide Mind

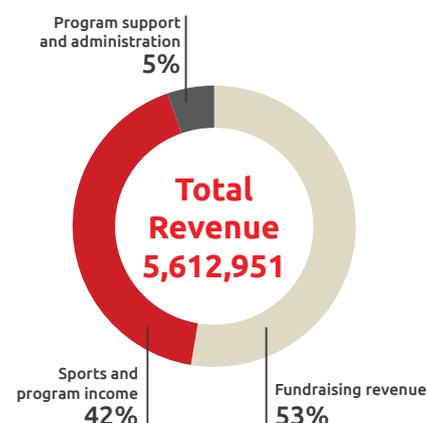


# Financial Summary

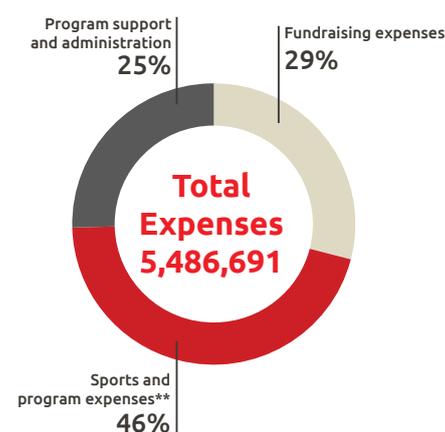
## Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Fundraising Revenue	2,954,048	2,766,892*
Sports and program income	2,359,309	2,272,003
Programs support and administration	299,594	262,020
	<b>5,612,951</b>	<b>5,300,915</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Fundraising expenses	(1,593,652)	(1,381,109)
Sports and program expenses	(2,679,061)	(2,515,811)
Programs support and administration	(1,393,487)	(1,301,064)
Reversal of 2013 Asia Pacific Games' trade creditors	179,509	5,814
	<b>(5,486,691)</b>	<b>(5,192,170)</b>
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	126,260	108,745
Tax (expenses)/Revenue	(1,466)	-
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>124,794</b>	<b>108,745</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>124,794</b>	<b>108,745</b>

### Revenue 2016



### Expenses 2016



## Statement of Financial Position

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalent	2,718,423	2,867,934
Receivables	94,132	180,744
Other assets	6,336	37,969
Prepayments	106,153	77,897
Total current assets	<b>2,925,044</b>	<b>3,164,544</b>
Property, plant and equipment	67,125	14,123
Prepayments	146,021	-
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>213,146</b>	<b>14,123</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>3,138,190</b>	<b>3,178,667</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	202,406	423,254
Unearned income	936,111	890,722
Employee benefits	104,751	136,238
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1,243,268</b>	<b>1,450,214</b>
Employee benefits	34,163	42,488
Unearned income	50,000	-
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>84,163</b>	<b>42,488</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,327,431</b>	<b>1,492,702</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,810,759</b>	<b>1,685,965</b>
<b>Members Fund</b>	<b>1,810,759</b>	<b>1,685,965</b>

\* Gift voucher income is reported net of voucher costs.

\*\* Includes reversal of 2013 Asia Pacific Games' trade creditors.

This financial summary is for the year ended 21 December 2016. A copy of the complete Financial Statements, Directors' Report & Declaration and Independent Audit Report signed by KPMG is available from [www.specialolympics.com.au](http://www.specialolympics.com.au) or by calling Special Olympics Australia on 1300 225 762.



Timothy Gould flying the flag for Team Australia at the 2007 World Summer Games in Shanghai. Photo: Dale Watson.

**Back Page:** Brianna Neill at the Victoria State Games in Bendigo, April 2016. Photo: Peter Blakeman.

## Thank you!

Thanks for supporting Special Olympics Australia over the past 40 years to provide regular sports training and competition for people with an intellectual disability. From its local roots, Special Olympics Australia has remained true to its core values, driven by the passion and enthusiasm of volunteers, who from day one have provided the foundation for the organisation.

We will continue to fly the flag for people with an intellectual disability in Australia and hope you can come with us on the journey for the next 40 years!



**Special  
Olympics**  
Australia

## CHARITABLE STATUS

Special Olympics Australia is a national charity with tax-exempt and deductible gift-recipient status granted by the Australian Tax Office. ABN: 28 050 738 728

## CONTACT

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