



Queensland



# *Impact* Report

2021-2022

"I have an MS 'tool belt' made up of support coordination, nursing support, my wheelchair, MS seminars and information, physiotherapy and my assistance dog Campbell. I feel like I have a tool belt, and I fill it with as many tools as I can, so I can pull out whichever one will help me for that day."

– Jess, diagnosed with MS when she was 25. Featured on the front cover with her family at the MS Brissie to the Bay event.



**Financial information**

As part of our commitment to a sustainable future, the full version of the Special Purpose Financial Report can be found online. You can access it by visiting [msqld.org.au](http://msqld.org.au) or scanning the QR code.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

Our organisation is committed to engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the communities we work with. As one of the world's oldest living cultures, we recognise that Australia always has been and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land. We who come from many places pay our respects to Elders throughout all time and commit to learning from the knowledge, traditions, stories, spirituality and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as we learn to live on their land. We walk together in solidarity in the shared pain of the past and the shared hope for the future. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the traditional owners for welcoming us on the land we gather on across Queensland.



**Our strategy & impact**

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## Message from our Chair and CEO

Our organisation, alongside families, communities and businesses throughout Queensland once again endured a year of unprecedented challenges. MS Queensland's dedicated and agile team maintained unwavering focus throughout this time.

We were proud to see the team adapt and strive to ensure service delivery continued, staff were supported and commitment of \$867,000 to MS research and advocacy was fulfilled whilst proactively working to implement several significant projects that will set the organisation up for future growth.

The Board and Executive Team were also very mindful that despite the profound and wideranging impacts and costs on our operations, it was also critical that we continued to invest in our capacity and broaden our relevance to people living with MS and other neurological conditions across Queensland. This investment and service expansion included:

### Ongoing service development and increased impact

Despite facing ongoing and increasing Covid-19 infection rates and related staff and service disruption our teams remained focussed on customers and service growth.

Our Employment Support Service has grown over the past 12 months and has expanded to support over 120 people living with MS and other neurological conditions. We expect to see this grow further to be a state wide offering.

Our Physiotherapy team continued to adapt their telehealth offering, introducing new programs for people newly diagnosed and enhancing our Sunshine Coast physiotherapy capacity by relocating to the Vitality Village adjacent to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

### Building resilient, future-proof IT infrastructure

The NDIS space continued to provide challenges including price tightening, application delays and plan reductions. Our team faced these challenges whilst also implementing and developing a new NDIS specific rostering, claims and acquittal system to set the foundations to enable us to evolve efficiently with this complex scheme.

Our growing and dynamic team of over 280 employees has now been migrated over to a contemporary Human Resource Information System and Payroll System after nine months of development.

This fully integrated system streamlines and transforms how we can support staff and managers through enabling access to their information, learning and supports in one seamless system.

We utilised the opportunity presented to us by the Brisbane flood event to review our IT infrastructure and disaster response processes. As a result, we fast tracked our plan to move all our servers to the cloud, these vital projects have set the organisation up by increasing system reliability and accessibility across the business. We are now in a stronger position for future modernisation as well as creating a stable platform for growth and improve risk mitigation.

### Financial Performance Summary

Similar to other disability service organisations, MS Queensland incurred a significant operating loss in our 2022 financial year due to several separate, but coinciding factors.

Operating in the ever-changing NDIS market presented many challenges to us and other NDIS providers. Our accommodation service was faced with NDIS price tightening, vacancy due to plan outcomes and delays, and increased operating costs. These challenges came at a significant operating loss of \$2.1m and caused the service to have to quickly change and adapt to the new environment.

A comprehensive review of how we deliver this service was conducted. Some of the significant outcomes were exiting agreements with several new accommodation sites, partnering with other providers to deliver services more efficiently, and reviewing the divisions' structure.

Depreciation of MS Queensland owned property of \$2.05M, \$500,000 debt expense (including Toowoomba Apartments) and a \$536,000 loss on our investment portfolio (value has improved since 30 June 2022) also contributed to our unfavourable financial position.

Despite this, all net funds raised were committed in full to unfunded services including research, MS nursing support, NDIS onboarding, NeuroAssist (helpline), distress support and information and wellbeing programs. MS Queensland does not use fundraising to subsidise corporate costs and operating losses even during difficult years.

We also planned for our future by investing \$768,000 into core systems and IT infrastructure.

At the AGM this year, the Board is seeking the support of MS Queensland Members to pass a resolution to allow MS Queensland to transition from a historical governance model to a Company Limited by guarantee. This widely accepted model provides clear charitable purpose and deductible gift status which many similar charities including other MS organisations operate as, with oversight from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC). Further information in relation to this procedural change is available by scanning the QR code below.



In closing, MS Queensland is a remarkable organisation with a rich history over 65 years. Whilst 2021-2022 has been a tremendously challenging year we remain confident and reassured that the MS community is as strong and committed as ever continuing to ensure that no-one faces MS and other neurological conditions alone.

We wish to particularly acknowledge and thank the highly valued support of our fabulous staff, generous supporters, volunteers, customers, and their families.

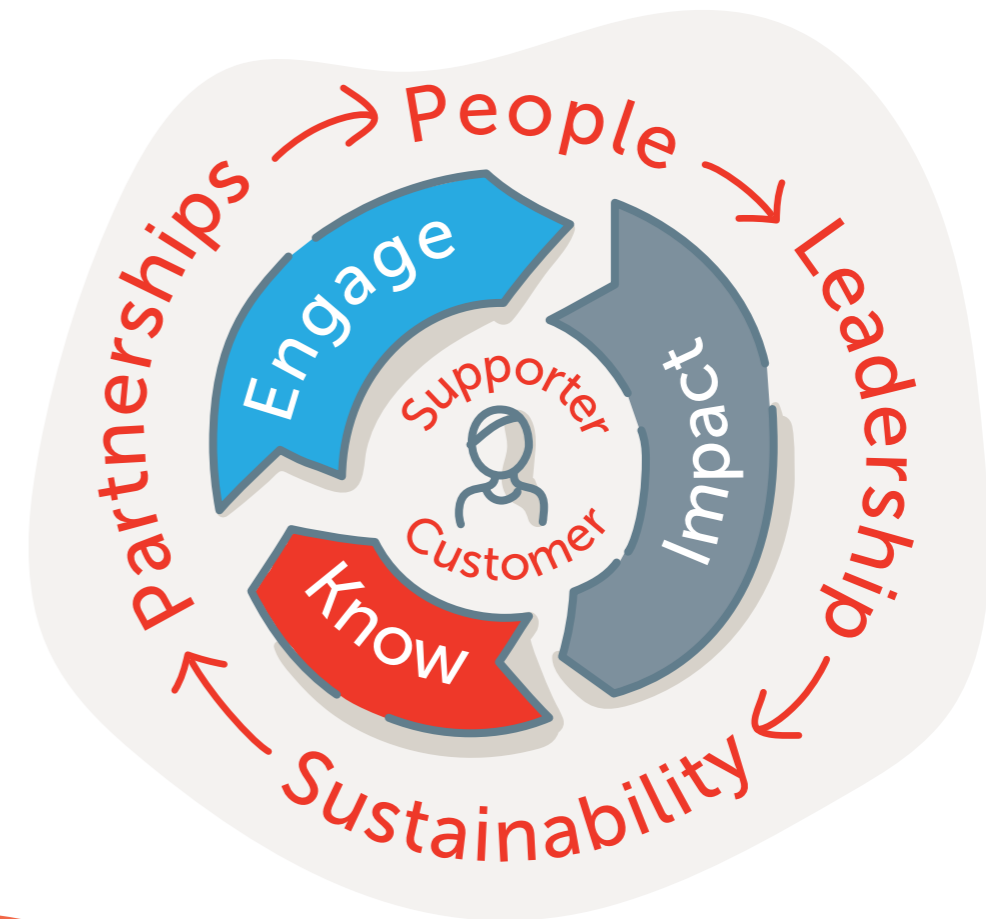
Brett Bassett  
Chairman

David Curd  
Chief Executive Officer

## Our strategic direction

This strategy relies on us keeping our strong community and customers at the heart of our decision making.

MS Queensland will continue to strive to know, engage, and be impactful in the lives of those living with MS and other neurological conditions regardless of where they live in Queensland.



### Thank you

We wish to acknowledge more of the volunteer Board. See more information on page 28.

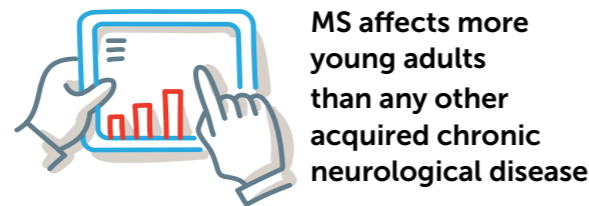
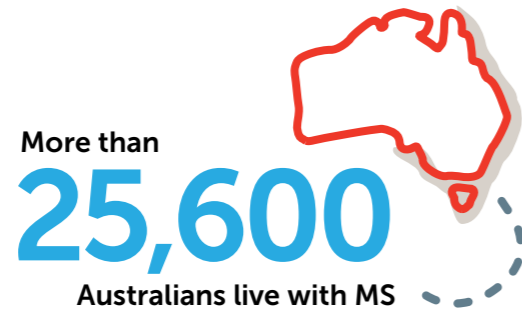
# Our community

We are dedicated to learning from the experiences of 4,000+ Queenslanders living with MS and getting to know everyone in our state living with MS, so they don't face this condition alone.

## Key facts about MS



Average age of diagnosis is between **20-40** years old



**64%** of people with MS use a disease modifying therapy (DMT), an increase of 40% since 2010

**3 out of 4** Australians diagnosed with MS are women



## Charlie's story

Charlie Bennett has dedicated his life to supporting people with MS, fundraising to find a cure, and caring for his wife Jenny, who lives with the disease.

MS Queensland is so very proud of Charlie who was a well deserving co-recipient of MS Australia's prestigious John Studdy Award in 2021.

*"I choose to get involved because since becoming Jenny's carer and making new friends with others in the MS community, I have seen how devastating this disease can be for people of all ages. It is a disease for life until a cure is found, a daily fight. They deserve better." - Charlie*

The annual MS Australia, John Studdy Award recognises outstanding, consistent, and selfless meritorious service of 10 or more years, by those making or who have made a tangible difference to the benefit of people living with MS and/or their families or carers.

Congratulations and thank you Charlie and Jenny!

Charlie educates politicians, and others about MS, its impact and effect. Since 2013, he has cycled and captained "Team Jenny" to raise awareness and vital funds for MS. Alongside Jenny and their incredible team, they have raised over \$300,000 for research and vital services.



## Awareness

MS Queensland was excited to welcome Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM Governor of Queensland as our patron.

It is a great privilege to continue MS Queensland's long relationship with the office of the Governor of Queensland. We're honoured to work with Her Excellency in supporting the almost 4,000 Queenslanders living with MS during her term in office.



**\$867,000**  
contributed to  
MS research



## MS research and advocacy

MS Queensland contributes supporter raised funds to MS Australia every year to support life-changing research and advocacy.

Key achievements this year, thanks to the support of the Queensland community:

- MS Australia was able to award \$6.9 million in research funding as part of the 2022 major grant round.
- Following advocacy by MS Australia, in March, the Australian Government announced a record \$18 million for MS research with a focus on the Epstein-Barr Virus.
- MS Australia launched a national longitudinal study which showed that people living with MS who had support from an MS Nurse experienced less severe MS symptoms and a higher quality of life.
- MS Australia commissioned the MS Employment and Workforce Survey, helping MS Australia raise awareness of employment and MS among employers and employees.

In addition to the above contribution, thanks to the support of supporters and philanthropists, MS Queensland has continued to support the important

work started by Professor Pender and carried on by Dr Zara Ioannides from the University of Queensland in adoptive T cell immunotherapy treatment research and clinical trial.

Here are some additional exciting breakthroughs that have been made possible by the generosity of our national community:

- The first and largest trial of its kind in the world studying vitamin D and MS prevention.
- A world first blood biomarker discovery to help differentiate between the different types of MS.
- Global collaborations that have led to the discovery of more than 200 MS risk genes.
- Establishment of the Australian MS Brain Bank, which now helps researchers around the world answer critical questions about MS pathology.
- Australia's first-ever and longest running MS Longitudinal Study, which has transformed advocacy and support for Australians with MS.

## World MS Day

In line with the global theme #msconnections, we aimed to connect communities right across Queensland, challenge social barriers and celebrate the current and continuing support networks for people living with MS.



**5**  
accessible  
yoga events  
hosted

**22**  
landmarks  
lit up red in  
support

**5**  
online  
webinars and  
community  
engagement  
events

## Specialist Disability Accommodation Opens in Toowoomba

Years in the making, MS Queensland's Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) in Toowoomba opened in January this year. Twelve people with high-physical support needs can now live independently while being supported by 24/7 specialist care on site when needed.

Thank you again to our donors, partners, NDIS, and our tremendous community who've made this possible!



"MSQ's Toowoomba Apartments are state of the art, and one of the best SDA developments I have seen to date. They are very thoughtfully designed, with many automation and access features that exceed the minimum requirements. These features provide residents with peace of mind in being able to maximise their independence, have access to supports on-site whilst also being able to live a full life".  
- Julie Yule - Occupational Therapist, Greenlight

## Col's story

In 2015 Col was diagnosed with primary progressive multiple sclerosis, however this has not held him back from doing what he loves. Col is an incredible member of our MS community who has been surfing for over 40 years and is a passionate painter and sculptor whose art is inspired by the ocean.

He says, "While I am fortunate enough to have art and the ocean in my life, I strongly believe that having a "Life Plan" when you have MS may help you navigate your way to finding new passions. A renewed sense of purpose is vital.

Sometimes our MS can quietly steal many things we love doing in our lives but there are ways to build new ones. Often that can be a wonderful adventure."

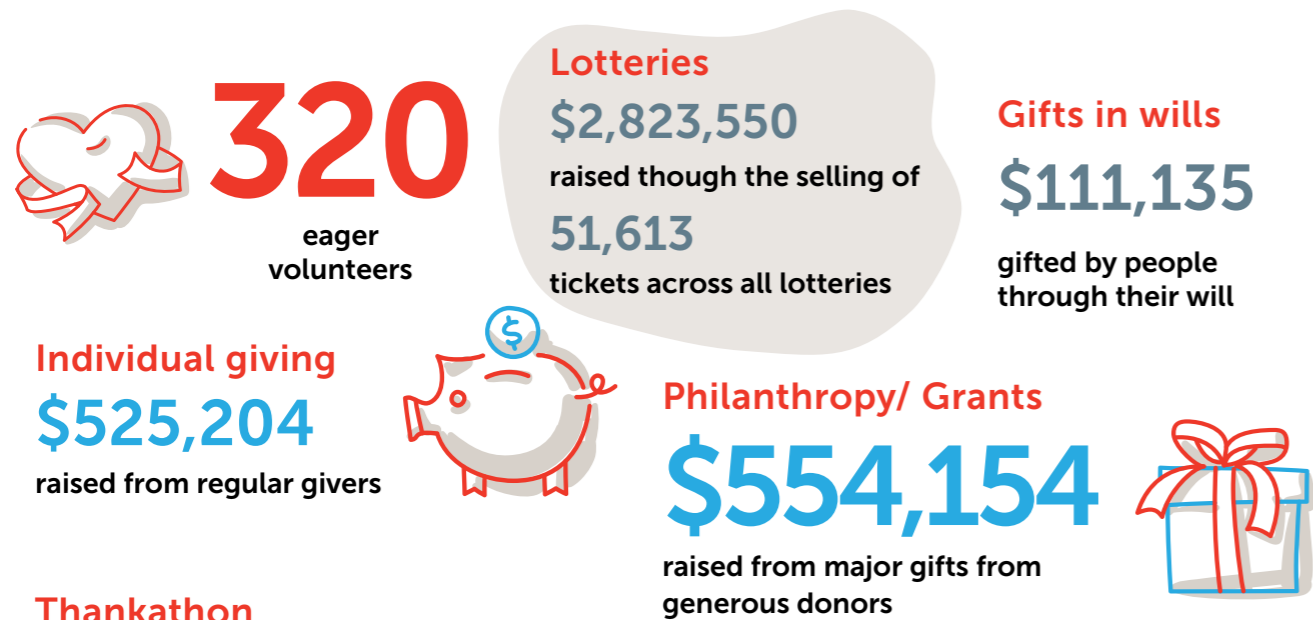
*"My hope for the future is a life with purpose." - Col*

As well as prioritising family and friends, in recent years he's climbed mountain tracks to raise money for people with MS and held art exhibitions to highlight the impact of pollution and climate change on the world's oceans. While it's hard to know what the future may hold, Colin is determined to grab the present as much as he can. "My hope for the future is a life with purpose."



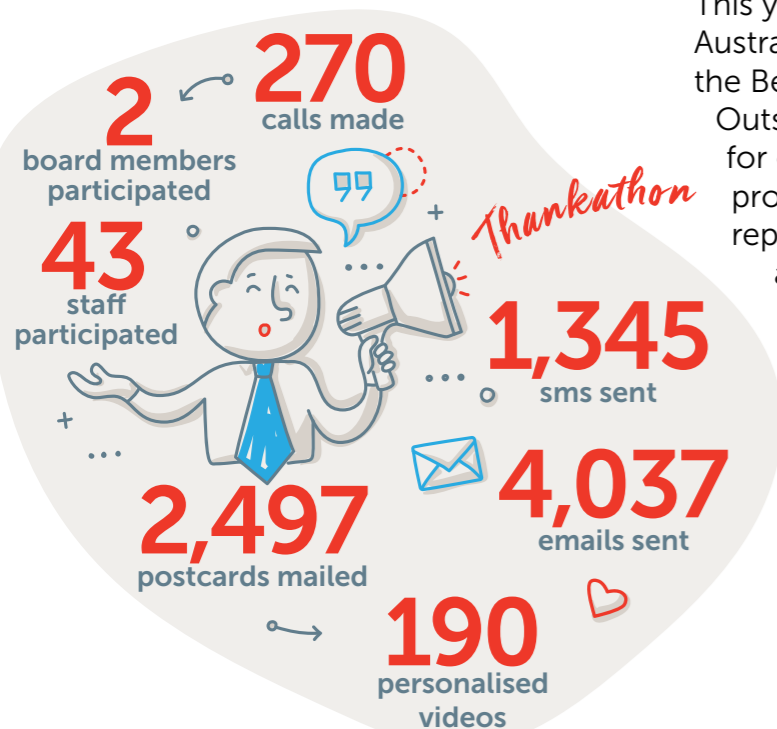
# Our supporters

We thank all our loyal and generous supporters who continued to support people living with MS and other neurological conditions this year. Whilst it was a challenging year, we are committed to ensuring 100% of net funds raised go to supporter funded services, advocacy and life-changing research.



## Thankathon

To continue being the best at saying thank you, MS Queensland held its third annual Thankathon to thank all our supporters.



## Fundraising Awards

This year at the Fundraising Institute of Australia National Awards, the team won the Best Supporter Experience and Most Outstanding Fundraising Project award for our "Best at Thank you" strategy. This project highlights our commitment to reporting back on impact and showing appreciation to all of our supporters who donate, volunteer or participate to raise vital funds for those living with MS.



## Ashley's story

Ashley is a young, energetic go-getter, who loves to travel, socialise with friends and attending her regular pilates classes. Her life was extremely busy juggling university, an internship and full-time work.

After a pilates class one day, Ashley started to get soreness in her legs, that transitioned to numbness from her feet to her waist. Being so young and busy, Ashley didn't think much of it and put off going to the doctor for months.

*"I remember looking out the window, and it was a hot sunny day. I was looking at my doctor, listening to her and I couldn't remember anything she said." – Ashley*

Almost a year later, Ashley was seeing her physiotherapist about the numbness and was referred for an MRI. The MRI showed lesions on her brain and after undergoing further testing, she found herself in her Neurologists office.

She was told she had MS.

Since her diagnosis in 2021, Ashley's symptoms have been mild and she has been able to continue with her life, with a few adjustments.

She experiences constant tingling in her legs and can often get aches in her joints. One of the biggest struggles she has is fatigue and the uncertainty of how long it can last. Even though Ashley feels very lucky to be able to live her life, her MS has taught her the importance of taking care of herself.

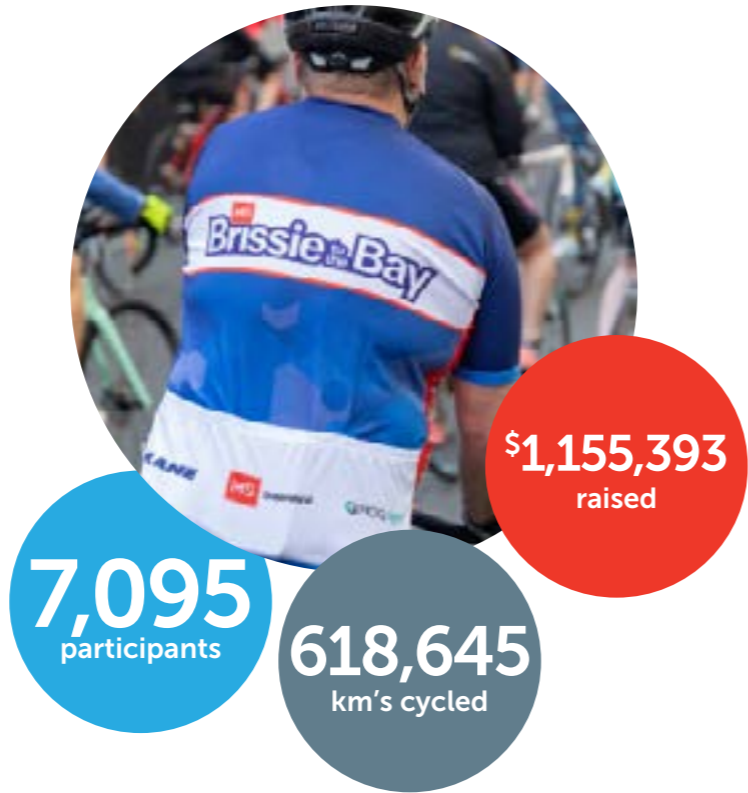


# Fundraising



## MS Brissie to the Bay

We celebrated the 32nd MS Brissie to the Bay bike ride with a lot of enthusiastic cyclists, supporters and amazing volunteers from our MS community. We saw a mammoth numbers of kilometres cycled this year and another incredible day out on the course.



## MS Moonlight Walk

The MS Moonlight Walk is an event not to be missed with a choice of 3km, 5km or 10km walk taking in the sights of the Brisbane River. This year did not disappoint, as we saw walkers dressed in tutus, tiaras, and lycra amongst a sea of red lanterns in support of people living with MS.



## MS Swimathons

Rockhampton, Gladstone, Mackay, Toowoomba, Townsville, the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast swam thousands of laps this year for those living with MS. The MS Swimathons provide an amazing opportunity for our communities across Queensland to connect, in and out of the pool, to contribute and provide outcomes for the MS Queensland community.



## Community fundraising

In 2022, supporters of MS Queensland and our community blew us away with their generosity and time given to fundraising for our cause. We are truly grateful for everyone's contribution.



**Donate**  
[msqld.org.au/donate](https://msqld.org.au/donate)  
 07 3840 0888



### MS Readathon

Kids all over Australia read an extraordinary number of books in August to support families affected by MS.



**27,463**  
readers

**\$2,137,900**  
raised

**\$384,822**  
raised in  
Queensland



*"I feel like I am not alone after today" – Simpson children*

MS Queensland hosted the MS Readathon Family Day in partnership with Care Squared Connect in 2021. An event dedicated to families living with MS, the MS Readathon Family Day provides families with an opportunity to spend quality time together, learn more about multiple sclerosis and bond with others who are sharing their journey.

We flew the Simpson family down from Emerald to join us for the event, where the whole family enjoyed the day connecting with others who share their experience with MS.

This was a first for the Simpson children as they reflected on the day, "I feel like I am not alone after today". This response meant a lot to MS Queensland, seeing how powerful it can be to bring our amazing community together to support one another.

## Tara's story

Tara was diagnosed with MS in 2014 when she was 44 years old, having experienced symptoms for several years prior. "After receiving the news, I was upset but also had a moment of relief - I had a definitive diagnosis and there were options available for me" she says.

"MS Queensland have been amazing since the very first day I contacted them. They sent out a Support Coordinator within one month.

They helped me access physiotherapy and employment services which help me stay working as a teacher's aide. I also regularly attend information sessions and webinars, these support me in building knowledge around different aspects of living with MS."

Tara is an incredible member of our MS community and we're grateful for her contribution and support of our wider community.

*"These services help me stay working as a teacher's aide - a job I love."*  
– Tara

Tara is passionate about fundraising and feels it's her way of giving back to the MS community for everything they've done to assist her and others living with MS. She has taken part in the MS Swimathon for the past few years where she enjoys being part of the atmosphere and seeing so many come together to help fight MS. Tara's also shown incredible support by participating in the MS Moonlight Walk event as part of team 'Dancers in the Moonlight.'



# Our customers

We strive to positively impact the lives of those affected by MS, so they live well and achieve their goals.

**18%**  
growth in customers



**26%**  
have NDIS funding



**74%**  
are living with MS



**20%**  
have another neurological condition



**74%**  
are **not** funded by NDIS



## MS Queensland Support and Services

MS Queensland is committed to delivering a wide range of specialist supports for MS and other neurological conditions.

### Supporter funded services

NeuroAssist  
**6,873**

calls aided those living with MS and their families and helped 100+ people access the NDIS

Specialist nursing  
**2,703**

phone and clinic consultations helped 485 patients understand MS symptom management and treatments

Support groups  
**30+**

groups gave members a network that makes them feel connected and supported through sharing their experiences

### NDIS and Government funded services

Employment support  
**120**  
people were supported in managing their MS at work or given assistance in seeking new employment

Physiotherapy & exercise therapy  
**5,723**  
hours of therapy were delivered to improve client's movement and mobility to maintain greater independence

Support coordination  
**39,547**  
hours of support saw over 950 people connect with services for MS and other neurological conditions

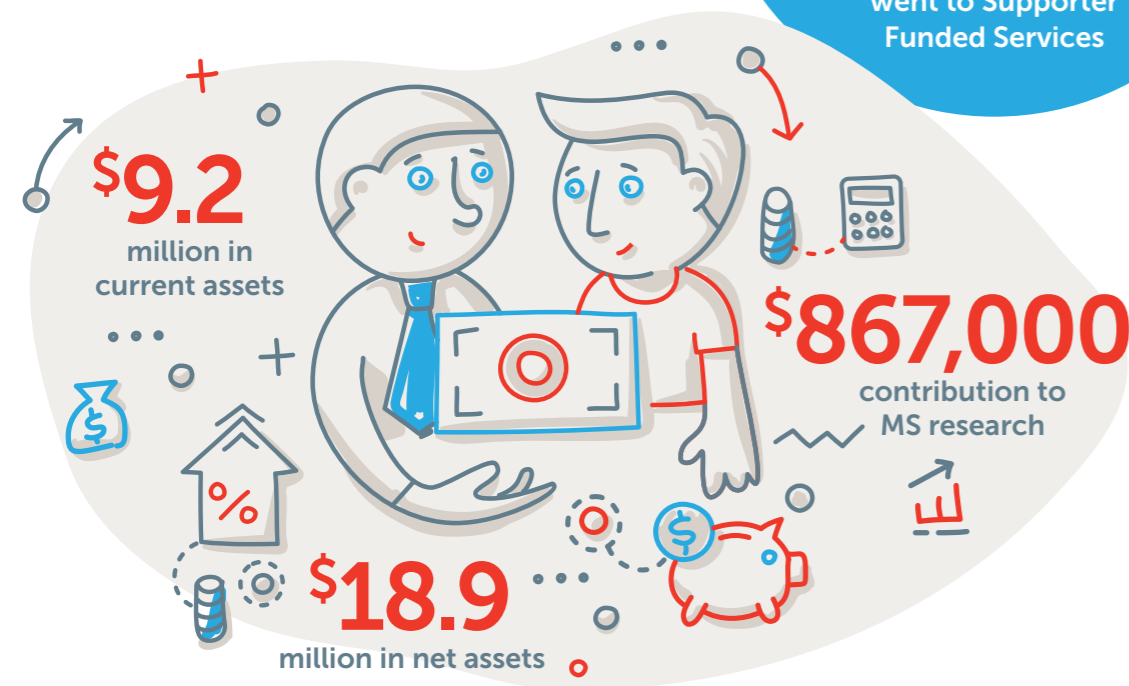
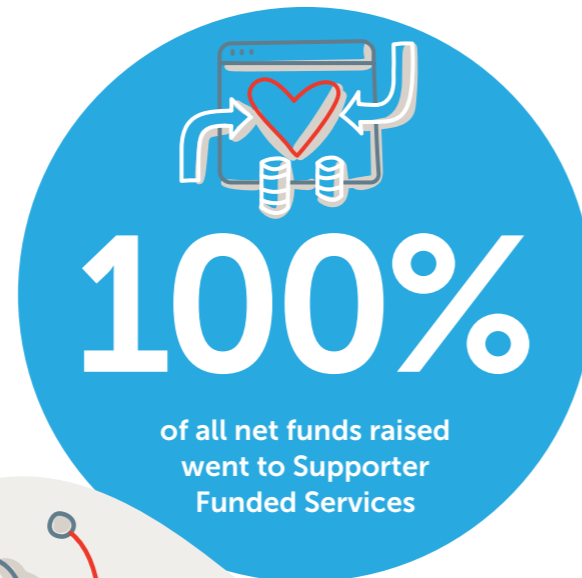
Accommodation  
**50**  
residents are supported across 6 sites

# Sustainability

We aim to support continued growth through valuing transparency and accountability. Our financially sustainable business, service, and governance model relies on being transparent about the use of funds.

Projects successfully completed to set us up for the future:

- ✓ New NDIS specific rostering, claims and acquittal system
- ✓ Contemporary Human Resource Information System and Payroll System
- ✓ Migration of all our servers to the cloud
- ✓ Quality Management System



## Board, leaders & financials

The Board and executive leadership team play a critical role in establishing and executing our organisation's strategic direction. Learn more about our Board and leaders and see the full financials here.



## Philip's story

I have been living with MS for over 30 years and I want to share with you today how MS Queensland has supported me on my MS journey.

For over 10 years my wife Tamsin and I have walked as fundraisers in the MS Moonlight Walk. After last year's event we were talking with MS Queensland's CEO who encouraged me to apply for NDIS, as I had just turned 60, and he advised me how important it is to start the process as it can take a long time.

My main physical challenge is what I call "my lazy right leg". Less than two months after MS Moonlight Walk I had two significant falls within six weeks. I lost all my confidence, started walking with a stick or hanging off Tamsin's arm and nearly pulling it out of its socket each time I would trip. It was time to do something!

So, I started my NDIS application. First there were many phone calls with the MS Queensland Customer Support team who helped connect me with the right health professionals to access the NDIS. Then there was my MS Queensland Physiotherapist, whose work and detailed report was a great support in my NDIS application.

*"The MS Queensland Customer Support team helped connect me with the right health professionals to access the NDIS." - Philip*

Fast forward eight months, how things have changed and progressed!! With the funding for regular physiotherapy, I have worked on balance and core strengthening.

I now use a device for my "foot drop" (funded by the NDIS), which has given me the confidence to walk again without a stick and feel secure enough to attend community events and even put myself up on stage again.

I want to share this story to acknowledge and thank all the people working within MS Queensland who have shaped my progress. These wonderful people and this organisation rely on donations and fundraising to provide this support.

Thanks, Philip

# Financial summary

The 2021-22 financial year continued to present a number of financial and operational challenges for MS Queensland.

The shining light through adverse macro- and micro-economic conditions, natural disasters and the continued health impact of COVID-19 has certainly been the resilience and commitment shown by our customers, supporters and staff.

This year saw the completion of a new specialist disability accommodation (SDA) development in Toowoomba. These modern apartments warmly welcomed our first residents in January 2022.

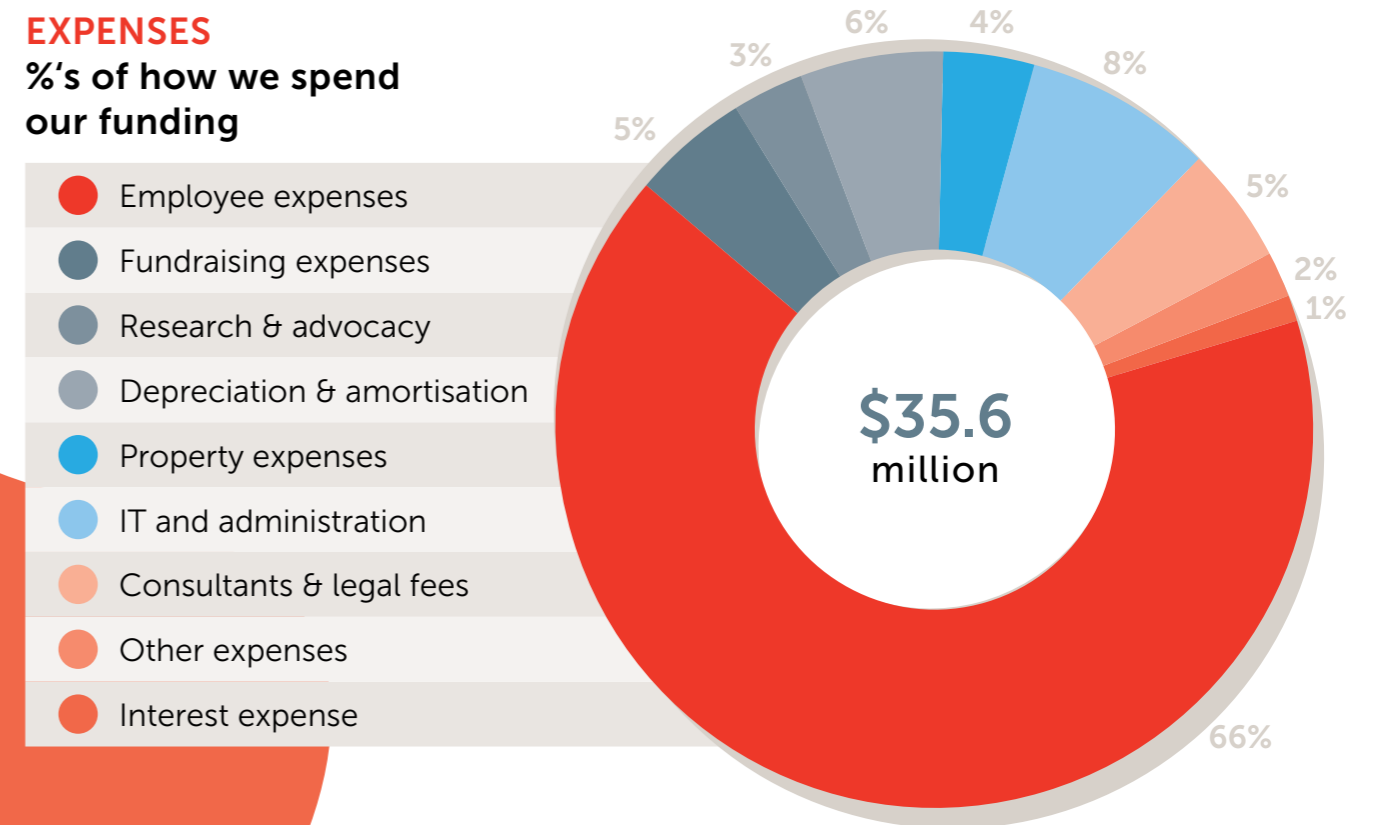
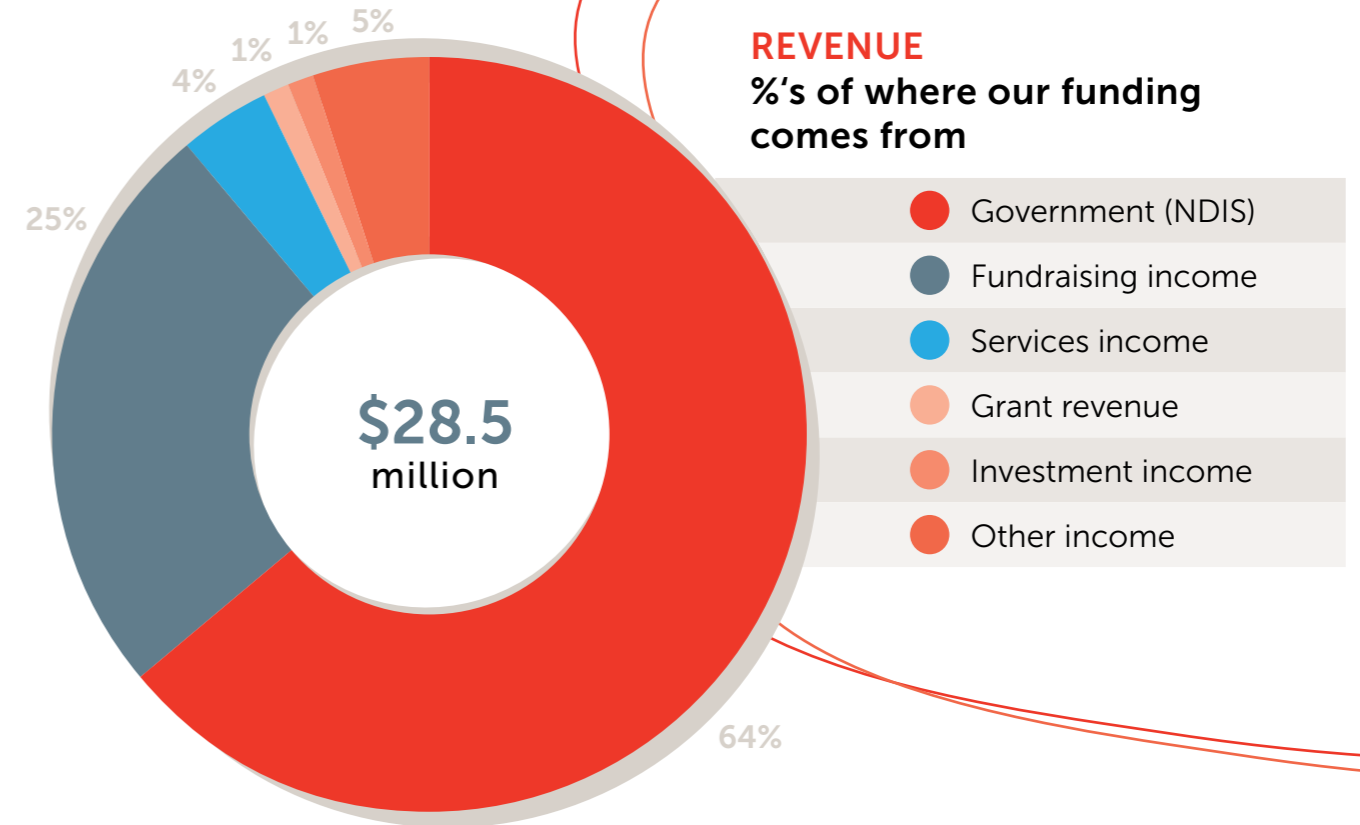
Despite current NDIS funding challenges, we saw the majority of our accommodation fully occupied, with continued growth expected for the newer developments.

Due to the reduction of donations received, operating challenges brought about by COVID-19 and rising inflation, the net loss for the year was \$7.1 million.

As a result, MS Queensland utilised some of its past reserves to support its operations, while focusing on cost reduction strategies to improve the future financial sustainability.

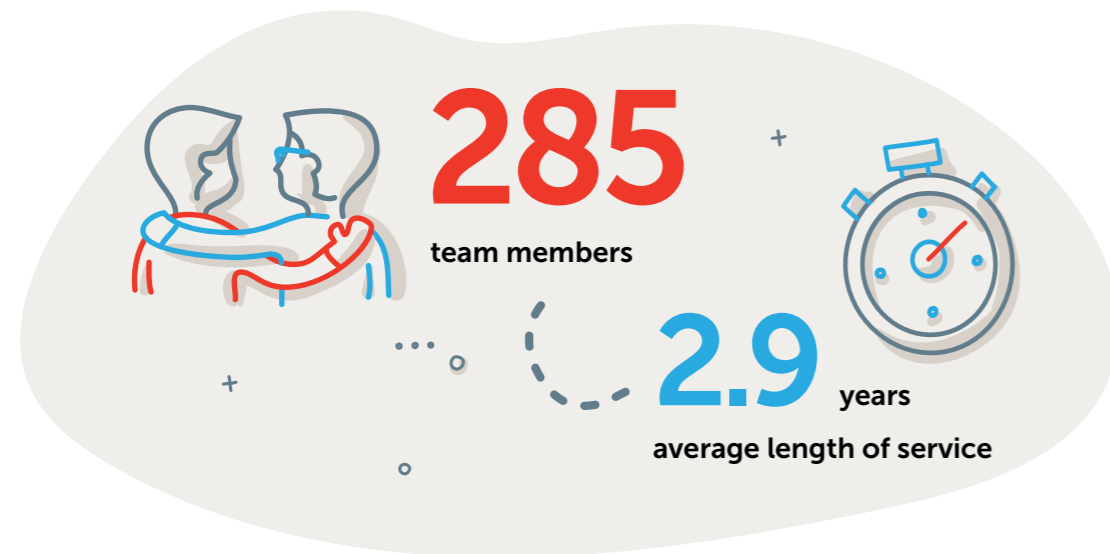
The first three months on the 2023 financial year have seen an improvement in performance, with the MS Queensland returning to a small profit year-to-date.

In the 2021-22 financial year, the Society has renegotiated its banking facilities and appointed Commonwealth Bank of Australia as its primary bankers, thereby enhancing our future sustainability as it supports those who matter most to it – our customers and their families.



# Our people

**Our compassionate team is committed to building lasting and rewarding relationships that achieve quality outcomes for customers.**



## COVID-19 response

MS Queensland implemented a hybrid working model which enabled roles capable of working from home the opportunity to connect to their teams through technology. This saw an increase in employee engagement where online sessions and forums were attended more than in-person.

MS Queensland continued to operate in a lean model regarding its locations and was not required to close down any locations due to ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

MS Queensland incorporated its COVID response into business as usual activities which meant that when there were high community transition activities, we saw minimal to no impacts in our business operations.

## Culture change journey

In October 2021, MS Queensland undertook an organisation-wide culture survey to help us to understand how our employees experience working at MS Queensland. As a result of this survey, we identified three main cultural priorities moving forward:

- All employees are kept informed
- We are all active members of the MS and Neuro community
- We are all learning and growing

We have also reviewed and refreshed our values in order to bring them to life in the workplace. As a result we have adopted the "Our Values in Action" Behaviour Framework.

### Our Values



*Commitment*

**Giving it your all**



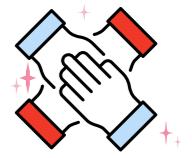
*Respect*

**With integrity always**



*Collaboration*

**Together unleashing potential**



*Community*

**Connecting with shared purpose**

# Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Queensland present their Report together with the financial statements of the consolidated entity ('the Group'), being the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Queensland ('the Society') and its controlled entities, Neuro Queensland Ltd, Project Dignity Ltd, and Multiple Sclerosis Queensland Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2022 and the Independent Audit Report thereon.

## Executive Committee details

The following persons were members of the Executive Committee during or since the end of the financial year.

### **Brett Bassett – Chair Board Member since 2017**

Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia. Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Certified Fraud Examiner. Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Education.

### **Vivienne Johnson – Member Board Member since 2017**

Chief Executive Officer of King's College London – Dubai. Fundraising and marketing communication specialist. Former General Manager External Relations at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Centre. Member of Australian Institute of Company Directors. Board member for the Ipswich Hospital Foundation.

### **Alarna Lane-Mullins – Member Board member since 2022**

General Manager for People at the Department of Transport and Main Roads. 20+ years of experience providing organisations advice on people, performance, diversity, inclusion, and safety matters. Member of numerous Queensland Government Committees and Boards. Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Executive Masters in Public Administration. Bachelor of Law. Bachelor of Business in Human Resource Management.

### **Wendy Lovelace – Member Board Member until her passing in May 2022**

MS Ambassador and advocate. Architect. Universal access consultant. Convenor of Queensland Action for Universal Housing Design. Person living with MS. Member of Queensland Accessible Transport Advisory Council (QATAC).

### **Carmel Macmillan – Member Board Member until January 2022**

Chair and non-executive director of various Boards and sub-committees. Marketing and corporate strategy specialist. Principal of CM Strategy Consulting. Graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

### **Tracey Parker – Secretary until Nov 2021 Board Member until Nov 2021**

Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary of the Pradella Group, a large private builder and developer of residential, commercial and industrial properties in South East Queensland. Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia.

### **Kimberley Pierce – Member Board Member since 2021**

General Manager of Gold Coast Private Hospital, Pacific Day Hospital, and Tweed Day Hospital. Board member for the Gold Coast Regional Committee for Australian Institute of Company Directors. Member of Health Advisory Board for Bond University. Bachelor of Applied Science in Nursing. Graduate of Advanced Management Program at INSEAD University in Paris.

### **Johanna Roche – Treasurer until Nov 2021 Board Member until Nov 2021**

Non-executive Director and Corporate Tax Consultant. Non-executive Director of Handball Australia and several private companies. Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. Member of the Tax Institute of Australia. Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Former Partner of PwC Australia.

### **Michael Stott – Secretary since Nov 2021 Board Member since 2021**

Director City Strategy and Place for Urbis PTY. 20+ years' experience in strategic design and urban planning of new cities, large-scale urban regeneration projects, and precincts worldwide. A highly respected industry leader for significant contributions to the fields of city strategy, urban design, master planning, and placemaking.

### **Shaun Treacy – Treasurer since Nov 2021 Board Member since 2021**

Strategic and Financial Adviser. 30 years' experience in corporate finance and investment banking. Former Managing Director of J.P. Morgan, Lehman Brothers, Nomura and UBS. Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Bachelor of Commerce. Graduate Diploma of Applied Finance & Investment.

### **Nick Wells – Member Board Member until November 2021**

Owner of Better Medical. Extensive background in management consulting, investment banking, corporate governance, capital markets, and fast-growing businesses. Former Manager at Ernst & Young. Bachelor of Finance and a Bachelor of Engineering.

## Principal activities

The 2021-22 financial year continued to present MS Queensland ("MS Qld") with challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of a significant flood event in South-East Queensland and challenging macro-economic factors.

Despite these challenges, our organisation focused on driving innovation and investment to support a sustainable future, while opening our specialist disability accommodation in Toowoomba.

The reduction in revenue was predominantly driven by the sale of the Robina and Palm Beach supported

accommodation sites, transition from the MS Queensland Annerley accommodation site, tightening of NDIS pricing, some vacancies in new accommodation sites due to NDIS application approval delays and a reduction in fundraising and lottery revenue.

Although revenue declined, we remained committed to finding a cure for MS through our contribution of \$867,000 towards research and invested a further \$768,055 in improved IT system capacity.

At our core, we remain committed to ensure no Queenslanders face MS and other neurological conditions alone.

## Executive Committee meetings

The number of Executive Committee meetings (including meetings of sub-committees) held during the year and the number of meetings attended by each Executive Committee Member were as follows:

	Executive Committee (Board)		Investments, Risk & Audit and Projects Committee		Customer, Services and People Committee		Governance and Nominations Committee	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Brett Bassett (Chairman)	8	7	3	3	6	6	4	4
Vivienne Johnson	8	7					4	4
Kimberley Pierce	8	5			6	5		
Shaun Treacy (Treasurer)	8	8	8	8			4	3
Michael Stott (Secretary) (apptd 1/10/21)	5	3	4	3	1	1	2	2
Alarna Lane-Mullins (apptd 3/1/22)	3	2			3	3		
Johanna Roche *	3	3	2	2			2	2
Tracey Parker **	3	3	3	3			1	1
Carmel Macmillan***	4	4			3	2	2	2
Nicholas Wells****	3	2	2	2				
Wendy Lovelace#	7	7	6	6	4	4		

Where: A is the number of meetings the Committee Member was entitled to attend

B is the number of meetings the Committee Member attended

\* Johanna Roche ceased to be a director on 08/11/2021

\*\* Tracey Parker ceased to be a director on 25/11/2021

\*\*\* Carmel Macmillan ceased to be a director on 30/01/2022

\*\*\*\* Nicholas Wells ceased to be a director on 01/11/2021

# Wendy Lovelace passed away on 01/05/2022

## Dissolution

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Queensland was incorporated under the Religious, Educational and Charitable Institutions Acts 1861 – 1967 on 14 November 1974. If the Society is wound up, the constitution states that the property and other assets of the Society remaining after the payment of all expenses and other liabilities must be transferred to an organisation, fund, authority or institution, having similar objects to the Society, to which income tax deductible gifts can be made.

## Executive Committee Members' Declaration

The Executive Committee Members' declaration is included on page 36 of the financial report and forms part of the Executive Committee Members' report.

## Independent Auditor's Report to Members

The independent auditor's report to members is included on page 37 of the financial report and forms part of the Executive Committee Members' report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Executive Committee Members.



Brett Bassett

Chair

25 October 2022

## Thank you and farewell

Our long serving Director and current Chair Brett Bassett will also be stepping down having led MS Queensland through a period of transition with the opportunity to build on our leadership and impact within the MS and wider neuro community throughout Queensland.

We also wish to acknowledge the long-term contribution of Directors Carmel MacMillan, Vivienne Johnson, Johanna Roche, Tracey Parker, Nick Wells and more recently Kimberley Pierce with ongoing Board renewal planned for the AGM on 30 November 2022.

In 2022, the Board has undergone an active renewal process. Following a skills analysis, Board members with complementary skill sets have been recruited and filled the vacancies created by the retirement of longstanding previous directors.





## Vale Wendy Lovelace

The MS Queensland Board and wider MS community experienced the very sad passing of the wonderful MS Queensland Board member, ambassador and passionate disability advocate, Wendy Lovelace.

Wendy combined her career as an accomplished architect with her lived experience to advocate to make our built environment accessible for all. She brought great influence and leadership, particularly in Queensland to the building, airline, and transport industries. Wendy's legacy lives on through NDIS Specialist Disability Accommodation and the accessibility of Queensland's rail network for all.

Wendy became an MS Queensland Board Member in 2008 and was instrumental in many decisions on behalf of the MS community, including the introduction of the MS Moonlight Walk lanterns.

Wendy was the most passionate advocate for others living with MS. She was steadfast in her beliefs and relished the opportunity to share her own story in the hope it would help others. Wendy would always volunteer to thank supporters, record a message, or do whatever she could.

Wendy's voice was such a strong one, and what she had to say was worth listening to. MS Queensland is grateful for her incredible generosity, fierce commitment, and endless time she has given to support the MS community, her efforts will be remembered and valued for a long time to come.

Thank *you* for your support



Queensland

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