Arthritis AUSTRALIA

2020/21

ANNUAL REPORT

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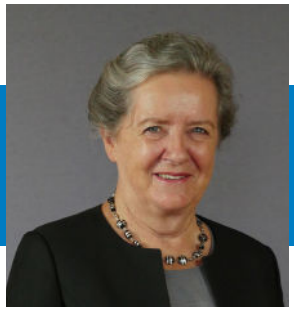
1. A message from our Chair



Kristine Riethmiller
Arthritis Australia Chair

This year has been one of significant change both within Arthritis Australia as well as for the broader community. We have all had to reassess our priorities, decide what is most important to us, and find new ways to achieve our objectives.

In association with our partners in the States and Territories and other national bodies, as well as our sponsors and supporters, we have risen to the challenge and are pleased with the outcomes.

The results and benefits of our activities this year are set out in detail in this report. However, there are a few key achievements that should be highlighted.

Australians with arthritis have enthusiastically embraced our online information resources that can be tailored to individual needs and link them to local services and support. Building from the successes of MyJointPain, MyBackPain and MyRheumatoidArthritis, this year we developed the website for MyPsoriaticArthritis.

Partnering with State and Territory arthritis organisations, Universities and Medical and Health professionals, the Arthritis Australia Action Plan Stage 1 began rolling out during the year. The projects will continue over the coming two years. These Commonwealth funded projects are focused on activities that help people with arthritis get the right treatment, care and support they need to live well with their condition.

To ensure that we are always listening to, and being advised by, those who know the most about arthritis we established two new Board Committees. Together with the Council of Advice, made up of our State and Territory partner organisations, these new Committees are providing robust and very valuable advice to guide our directions and operations.

The Consumer Advisory Panel membership is comprised of people with lived experience of arthritis and representative of the range of arthritis and related musculoskeletal disorders, as well as the geographic, age, gender, and community diversity within Australia. The Scientific Advisory Panel is a multidisciplinary group comprised of Medical (acute, rehabilitation and paediatric), Allied Health, Nursing, and related professions.

The successes of the past year would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the staff, members of the Board and all our Committee members and other volunteers who participate in steering and project committees, focus groups, testing and reviews, surveys, and the myriad of other activities we conduct.

I would also like to acknowledge the strong support we have received from our State and Territory affiliated organisations, other national body partners, including the Accessible Product Design Alliance, the Australian Rheumatology Association, as well as all our generous sponsors and supporters.

Over the coming year we will focus on:

- Building online information resources for Ankylosing Spondylitis
- Strengthening our partnerships to increase our effectiveness
- Improving the impact of our research through development of a national agenda.

Kristine Riethmiller

2. A message from our CEO

Jonathan Smithers
Arthritis Australia CEO

I write this report to highlight the achievements which have been made this year. I was appointed in November 2020, partway into the year, my colleague Franca Marine having held the post as interim prior to that.

Great progress has been made this year in the organisation on a number of fronts both in delivery of services and support to consumers and in its organisational capability.

The National Strategic Action Plan grants required us to deal with the immense task of coordinating proper and meaningful dispersal of the funds with a wide variety of delivery partners. The work will continue to progress over the next two years as the grants are utilised for their various purposes. We are determined to show the government that their faith in our ability to deliver is well placed and, of course, ultimately improving the lives of the consumers whom we serve.

This year also saw the conclusion of the Better Ageing Grant, facilitated through Sport Australia and delivered through the States and Territories by our Affiliate Organisations. We have been humbled to receive feedback from a number of participants indicating that the activities delivered, not only assisted the consumers who took part in direct improvement of their conditions but added to their lives in friendships made.

A further project has been undertaken, in conjunction with NPS MedicineWise, to promote the consumer stories of those whose lives have been transformed through the use of biologic medicines. The next stage of delivery in that project includes translations into all languages, to better reach a wider population.

Following on from launch of the MyRA interactive consumer website we were able, this year, to complete the construction of MyPsA, (Mypsoriaticarthritis.org.au). This was funded from the Action Plan Grants and with additional generous support from commercial partners. Whilst the technology platform followed on from previous websites, we were able to learn from experience to enhance the consumer journey. In the coming year we hope to look again at MyRA and other websites in order to embed continuous improvements.

The Board approved the business case for our next website venture, MyAS (MyAnkylosingSpondylitis.org.au). Work has already commenced, again with generous support from commercial partners, enabling us to provide better and more comprehensive resources for consumers.

Our planned federal government advocacy opportunities in Canberra, were frustrated by the pandemic but we have continued with other advocacy opportunities, maintaining close contact with government, particularly over medicine shortages. We also worked with the Therapeutic Goods Administration on accessible design, negotiating successfully for more flexibility in the regulations surrounding

the use of our brand, in order to assist those companies who want to work with us for the benefit of our mission and for consumers.

The Accessible Design Division, (page 9) is a very exciting part of our delivery and strategy for consumers. We are leading a group of eleven consumer charities in coordinated advocacy to improve design through the Accessible Product Design Alliance.

One of our strategic pillars relates to organisational sustainability which has been a focus this year. We completed a review of the finance function, amending and upgrading our internal reporting, also ensuring proper internal financial acquittal of our costs from the grants and other income. We have also worked on updating and reviewing numerous policies and ensuring compliance with principles of good governance. We have been assisted in this task by our Company Secretary, John Butt, who joined us this year.

During the year we renewed the lease on our business premises for a two-year period. We are keeping our future options under close review.

Our investment portfolio, the majority of which are the corpus funds, donated for various research purposes, has changed management. Following a rigorous process overseen by the Finance Advisory Committee and the Board, we appointed Koda Capital.

The work detailed above has been undertaken and facilitated by my colleagues (page 23) working relentlessly and with dedication. I would like particularly to mention Franca Marine, our manager of policy and government relations. Franca has been both the backbone and the heart of the organisation for ten years. A list of her achievements would take many pages of this report but suffice to say her dedication to our mission has enabled us to improve many lives over many years. Franca has, since the end of the year to which this report relates, decided to take a well-earned and more than deserved rest. We wish her well in her next endeavour.

Franca's successor, Louise Hardy, has recently joined us from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. We are looking forward to building on Louise's expertise as we move into the next year.

It has also been a great pleasure to work collaboratively with a very wide range of stakeholders, first and foremost our Affiliate Organisations in the States and Territories and the Australian Rheumatology Association, together with so many other industry partners.

In the next year we are looking forward to continuing our success in providing information resources, advocacy and research for and behalf of consumers and towards our mission of Freedom from Arthritis.

Jonathan Smithers

"Despite being desperately sad at the loss of my husband, this program has given me friends. It has also helped me to keep my balance and I'm not so terrified of facing life alone."

- Better Ageing Grant participant comment

3. About Us

Providing information and support to people living with arthritis

Arthritis Australia is Australia's leading national arthritis charity. We work in collaboration with affiliated arthritis organisations in the ACT, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia to deliver information and support to people living with more than 100 types of arthritis.

Our vision is to achieve freedom from arthritis for the more than four million Australians of all ages who currently live with arthritis and for the many more who will develop these conditions in the future.

To achieve our vision, our key strategies are to provide information and support to people affected by arthritis, to fund research into better care and potential cures, and to advocate for policy and programs to ensure people with arthritis get the treatment, care and support they need.

We also work in partnership with peak health organisations, the federal government and national corporations to support collective goals and to seek funding to sustain our organisational purpose and activity.

Consumer support

We provide comprehensive information resources to help people live well with arthritis and, through Affiliated state and territory arthritis organisations, deliver a comprehensive range of information, education and support services.

Research

We are the leading non-government funders of arthritis research in Australia and work in partnership with the university and medical sector to support and advocate for increased funding for research into arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions.

Advocacy

We advocate to the government and industry for policies, programs and funding for initiatives to ensure everyone facing the challenge of arthritis gets the care and support they need to live their best possible life.

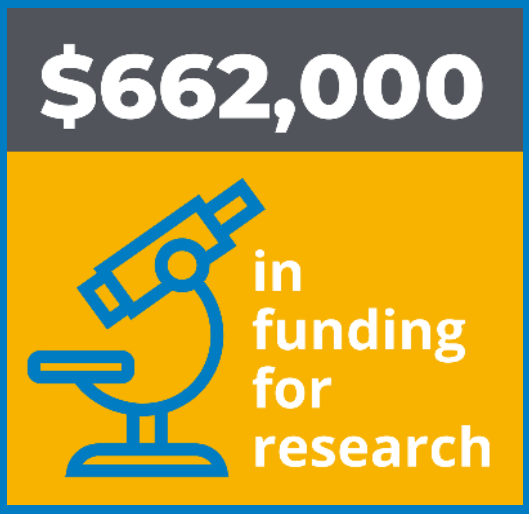
Sustainability

To help fund and support our activities to achieve our organisational vision, we develop partnerships with national organisations with aligned values.

National partnerships

We work collaboratively with Affiliated arthritis organisations and other peak health organisations to develop and deliver national programs and to support our common goals of improving the health and wellbeing of people living with arthritis.

4. Highlights



5. Consumer support

Helping people live well with arthritis through information and support.

Providing information and support to help people with arthritis gain the knowledge and skills they need to live well with their condition is one of our primary aims.

We continue to build on our strategy of providing tailored information and support that responds to an individual's needs. These needs vary depending on the type of arthritis an individual has, their age and life stage, the severity and duration of their condition and their cultural needs.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact various activities, we made significant progress in many of our priority areas.

myRA RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS SUPPORT PROGRAM

MyRA - supporting people with rheumatoid arthritis

After the successful launch of MyRA.org.au in 2020, a promotional campaign and evaluation was undertaken to better understand how consumers engage and use the website, so as to better inform next steps and future development of sibling websites.

The site has garnered more than 20,000 unique visitors in the past year and continues to empower people with rheumatoid arthritis to take control of their condition and become active participants in its management.

myPsA PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS SUPPORT PROGRAM

MyPSA - supporting people with psoriatic arthritis

Due to launch in August 2021, MyPsA (My PsoriaticArthritis.org.au) was developed for people living with psoriatic arthritis.

While not widely reported on, psoriatic arthritis affects around 200,000 Australians. Three out of every 10 people with the skin condition 'psoriasis' develop psoriatic arthritis.

Consumers will be able to build individually tailored profiles and access customised information on a comprehensive range of topics.

These topics include: treatment options, diet, exercise, day-to-day tips, support services and how to manage pain, mental health and fatigue, as well as how to build a healthcare team. It also links through to the National Arthritis Infoline to connect people to local support services offered by Affiliate arthritis organisations in the states and territories.

> **"So much information that would have been very much valued in my journey - all in one place. Easy to share with others having difficulty and easily demystifies some aspects."**
>
> - MyPsA consumer comment

Targeted Therapies Alliance

Arthritis Australia continues to work in partnership with eight other national health organisations representing specialists, pharmacists, consumers and research experts, to deliver a three-year Government funded program to optimise the quality use of biologic medicines.

These medicines, known as biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, or 'bDMARDs', have made a significant improvement in the management of inflammatory conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

The Alliance is jointly developing a range of evidence-based educational resources, tools and interventions to support consumers, specialist prescribers, pharmacists, nurses and governance bodies to achieve the best possible health and economic outcomes from the use of these medicines.

A range of resources for people with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis, as well as other conditions is now available: https://www.nps.org.au/bdmards

TARGETED THERAPIES ALLIANCE

Helping consumers and health professionals make safe and wise therapeutic decisions about biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) and other specialised medicines. Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health through the Value in Prescribing bDMARDs Program Grant.

Australian Rheumatology Association · Arthritis Australia · Cochrane Musculoskeletal · ANZMUSC · University of South Australia · Pharmaceutical Society of Australia · shpa · CATAG Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups · NPS MEDICINEWISE

MyAS – supporting people with ankylosing spondylitis

Coming soon in 2022!

Starting in Mid-2021, work will begin on MyAS (MyAnkylosingSpondylitis.org.au), a sibling website to MyRA and MyPsA, developed especially for people living with ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA).

AS and nr-axSpA affect around 150,000 Australians, and nearly half of people with arthritis report that they do not receive enough information and support to help them manage their condition. People with poor access to information and support are more likely to report that they are faring badly with their arthritis.

These conditions are poorly recognised and delays in diagnosis of up to 10 years are common. In addition to supporting people living with these conditions, MyAS would support the development of policy, programs and awareness raising to reduce this diagnostic delay.

Arthritis Australia website

The Arthritis Australia website continues to play a crucial role in providing important information to consumers and health professionals.

More than 692,868 unique users visited the website in the 2020/21 financial year, an increase from the previous year's 660,000. We continue to share the website across all our social media channels as the main place for up-to-date arthritis information.

Arthritis Australia social media

Our Facebook community is more than 24,000 followers strong across the nation, and remains an important source of real-time consumer insight and information sharing. This platform has played a particularly significant role in keeping our community up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 information.

Out of all of the social media platforms in the past year, Arthritis Australia's Instagram profile has increased its community of followers by 76%, and continues to connect the organisation with many other musculoskeletal organisations around the world.

The Arthritis Australia Twitter profile has made its mark this year within the health professional and research community, with a focus on showcasing innovative projects funded through this year's National Research Program.

745,387 visitors to our six websites

6,494 calls to the Arthritis Infoline and head office

28,674 social media followers across all platforms

6. Accessible Design Division

Advocating to government and industry to improve product and packaging accessibility.

Accessible Product Design Alliance meeting

We brought together the 11 not-for-profit health consumer organisations that are members of the Alliance for an important planning meeting. The group discussed ways to highlight the struggle their 5 million consumers, living with chronic conditions and disability across Australia and New Zealand, experience with inaccessible products and packaging.

The Alliance also established a logo, an important foundational step in creating an identity for the group in preparation for its Position Statement launch in September 2021.

ACCESSIBLE PRODUCT DESIGN ALLIANCE

The Alliance also decided to create an Instagram page to share their activities with the community, as well as allow consumers with chronic conditions and disability to voice their opinion on important accessibility topics. Become part of the Alliance's Instagram community at www.instagram.com/accessiblealliance/

Media spotlight on accessibility

The wrap-rage battles many consumers experience with inaccessible packaging received media attention this year, with disability reporter Nas Campanella producing a piece for ABC Radio's The World Today that included an interview with Arthritis Australia's Consumer Director Charlotte Bachali, regarding the daily impact on consumers with arthritis.

CHOICE also covered the wrap-rage topic, sharing their community members' stories, frequently highlighting that consumers resorted to using their teeth, knives and other dangerous methods to open packaging.

The stories both captured the consumer battles with many types of packaging as well as our work to make change in the space. The daily struggle with food packaging is unacceptable and causes unnecessary pain as well as impairing the independence of consumers with arthritis.

It's important companies hear the true impact of hard-to-open packaging to be motivated to change.

'That's a Wrap' the best and worst packaging of 2020

Arthritis Australia's Accessible Design Division runs an annual social media campaign to glean detailed stories about the best and worst packaging arthritis consumers interact with.

The campaign provides critical insights into the experiences of our arthritis community and helps the Division target problematic packaging formats.

Packaging has been a focus area of the Division because hard-to-open packaging impacts those with arthritis more significantly, which can negatively impact their emotional wellbeing, sense of independence and their overall health.

Results for 2020

The 'Worst Packaging' category continues to be the most popular nomination category of the campaign, where consumers shared their stories with us about wielding knives and having loved ones or pharmacists help them open wrap-rage inducing packaging.

The worst offenders of 2020 were:

5. Clamshell packaging

4. Ring-pull tin cans

3. Milk bottles - with twist lids and the half-moon seals

2. Medicine packaging - Push through tablet trays, also known as blister packs

1. Medicine packaging - Push down and turn child-resistant bottles

For the 'Best Packaging' category no winner was crowned this year, as although the Division received nominations that could be described as better than a horrible alternative, when investigating the packaging the products didn't meet minimum accessibility standards to be crowned the 'Best'.

They have, however, announced two 'Honourable Mentions' from the consumer nominations which the Division noted still needed further improvement to not cause discomfort.

The honourable mentions were:

- Chemist Own paracetamol packaging – which was described as having a more flexible plastic tray and thinner foil to allow you to apply pressure to push the medication out

- Mi battery branded clamshell packaging – which its nominator noted that it didn't require any tools to open the two halves.

The Division hopes the next campaign brings many more 'Best Packaging' category worthy packaging nominations.

> **"The plastic is more flexible which gives when you apply pressure to push the medication out, comparing apples with apples this product is a hell of a lot easier to open."**
>
> - 'That's a Wrap' consumer comment

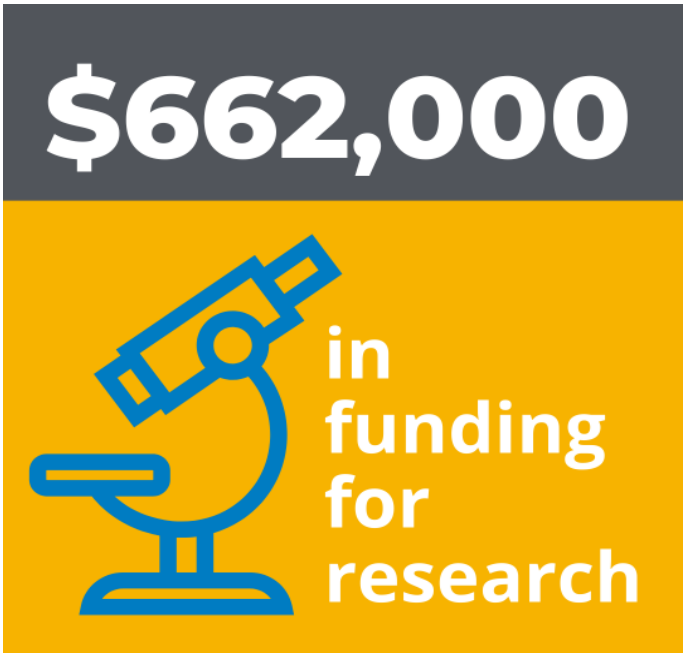
Research is a key pillar of our important work.

7. Research

Along with education and assistance, Arthritis Australia spearheads the effort to further our knowledge of arthritis and to search for potential cures.

Much of our work is directed towards raising funds for the Arthritis Australia National Research Program. This program is conducted annually and is open to both national and international researchers. Prof Graeme Jones was the Chair of our Research Grants Assessment Committee in 2020 for the awards distributed in 2021. In 2020-21, we provided over $662,000 in funding for a range of research grants, fellowships and scholarships.

In addition, Arthritis Australia funds the Florance and Cope Chair of Rheumatology at the University of Sydney, currently held by Professor David Hunter.



National Research Program 2020

We awarded 12 grants, 2 fellowships and 2 scholarships, and 4 grants-in-aid from our National Research Program in 2020-21 to the value of $662,000. Recipients of research funding provide a lay summary of their research.

To read a summary of each project listed below, visit www.arthritisaustralia.com.au.

FELLOWSHIPS

Ken Muirden Overseas Training Fellowship
Dr Luke Williamson
Westmead Hospital - NSW
Research Project: $100,000
Fellowship in Adolescent Rheumatology and Data Science.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Dr Dzenita Muratovic
The University of Adelaide - SA
Research Project: $50,000
Bone - specific targets for Osteoarthritis Management.
From funds donated by: Arthritis Australia

SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr Julia New-Tolley
University of Adelaide - SA
Scholarship: $30,000
Rheumatoid Arthritis and exercise in Australia.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Ms Laura Hutchison
The University of Sydney - NSW
Scholarship: $25,000
Gait Retraining for reducing pain in people with medial knee osteoarthritis.
From funds donated by: Arthritis WA

PROJECT GRANTS

Dr Nicola Burton
Griffith University - NSW
Project Grant: $35,000
Wellbeing and healthy lifestyle program for people with Rheumatoid Arthritis.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Dr Kathleen Morrisroe
Rheumatology, St Vincent's Hospital - VIC
Project Grant: $15,000
Quantifying the occupational exposure to crystalline silica in systemic sclerosis: A multi-centre Australian cohort study.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Prof Johannes Nossent
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, University of WA
Project Grant: $30,000
Defining the burden of disease for Juvenile Arthritis in Western Australia - a longitudinal, population-based cohort study.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Prof Richard Day
Department of Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology, St Vincent's Hospital - NSW
Project Grant: $30,000
Effect of self-monitoring urate levels of adherence to allopurinol.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Dr Helen Keen
Rheumatology Department, University of WA
Project Grant: $40,000
Home based Education & Learning Program for Gout (Help Gout).
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Prof Meilang Xue
Sutton Arthritis Research Laboratory - Royal North Shore Hospital - NSW
Project Grant: $25,000
Association of EPCR gene polymorphism with Rheumatoid Arthritis.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Dr Sultana Monira Hussain
School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University - VIC
Project Grant: $40,000
Topical Corticosteroid and hand osteoarthritis.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Prof Timothy Davis
School of Medicine, University of WA
Project Grant: $20,000
The effect of sodium-glucose transport protein 2 inhibitor and fibrate therapies, alone and in combination, on the serum uric acid concentration in hyperuricaemia people with type 2 diabetes.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Prof Anthony Purcell
Monash University - VIC
Project Grant: $25,000
Are Hybrid peptide antigens pathogenic in rheumatoid arthritis?
From funds donated by:Arthritis SA

Prof Ranjeny Thomas
The University of Queensland - QLD
Project Grant: $40,000
Translating Targeted oral therapies for autoimmune diseases.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Prof Peter Malliaras
Monash University - VIC
Project Grant- $20,000
Decision Support tool for rotator cuff related shoulder pain.
From funds donated by: Arthritis Australia

Dr Daniel Harvie
Griffith University - NSW
Project Grant: $15,000
The Impact of sensory training on persistent pain: the iSTOPP study.
From funds donated by: Eventide Homes

GRANTS-IN-AID

Dr Shereen Paramalingam
Department of Rheumatology, Fiona Stanley Hospital - WA
Grant-in-Aid: $15,000
Cardiac MRI in myositis.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Dr Marina De Barros Pinheiro
Institute of Musculoskeletal Health, School of Public Health, University of Sydney - NSW
Grant-in-Aid: $15,000
Enhancing transition from hospital to community-based exercise for patients with musculoskeletal disorders.
From funds donated by: Australian Rheumatology Association

Ms Emily Bell
La Trobe Sport and Exercise Medicine Research Centre, La Trobe University - VIC
Grant-in-Aid: $10,000
Supported Motivational interviewing (SUMIT) to improve physical activity for people with knee osteoarthritis.
From funds donated by: Arthritis Australia

Dr Belinda Lawford
The University of Melbourne - VIC
Grant-in-Aid: $15,000
Can Physical Function be assessed accurately via telehealth? A Validity and reliability study of performance-based tests in people with chronic lower limb musculoskeletal conditions.
From funds donated by: Suzette Gately

"I know that charities work so hard, and that most have struggled to bring in dollars over the last year or so.

We are very grateful!"

- Grant recipient comment

8. Board & Governance

Board Members

Ms Kristine Riethmiller - Chair
Prof Susanna Proudman - Deputy Chair & Medical Director
Ms Kaylene Hubbard - Treasurer
Ms Wendy Favorito - Consumer Director until November 2020
Ms Charlotte Bachali - Consumer Director from November 2020
Ms Margaret Stone - Independent Director
Ms Colette Smith - Independent Director until May 2021
Paul Ritchie - Independent Director from May 2021
John Butt - Company Secretary

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Franca Marine - acting CEO until November 2020
Mr Jonathan Smithers - appointed November 2020

Patron

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AS DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Emeritus Directors

Ms Ita Buttrose AC OBE
Dr Mona Marabani MBBS
Prof Patrick McNeil

Council of Advice Members

Mr Nigel Corne - Chair (NSW)
Ms Kate Templeman (QLD)
Ms Sylvia Caratti (WA)
Mr David Waterford (SA)
Ms Hilary Fowler (NT)
Ms Frankie Forsyth (TAS)

Consumer Advisory Panel

Ms Charlotte Bachali - Chair
Ms Jill Berensen
Ms Cecilia Donohoe
Mr Ben Horgan
Ms Ruth Lee
Ms Sharon Lee
Ms Kerry Mace
Mr Anthony Marshall
Ms Gayle McNaught
Ms Fiona Naughtin
Ms Alison Park
Dr Christine Walker
Mr Hugh Watson
Ms Shirani Wright

Scientific Advisory Panel

Prof Susanna Proudman - Chair
Prof Kim Bennell
Ms Linda Bradbury
Prof Andrew Briggs
Dr Fiona Goldblatt
Prof Ian Harris
Prof David Hunter
Mr David Menzies
Prof Mark Morgan
Prof Lorimer Moseley
A/Prof Jane Munro
Prof Michael Nicholas
Prof Debra Rowett
Prof Deborah Turner
Dr Emily Webb

Grants Assessment Committee

Prof Graeme Jones (Chair)
Prof Susanna Proudman
Dr Helen Benham
Dr Tania Crotti
Assoc Prof Jenny Walker
Prof Rana Hinman
Dr Helen Keen
Prof Chris Little
Dr Mandana Nikpour
Ms Wendy Favorito – Consumer Director
Ms Michelle Graham- Consumer Representative
Dr Lauren Host (ARA observer)

9. Financial overview

Treasurer's Report

Kaylene Hubbard
Arthritis Australia Treasurer

I present the audited financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2021. This financial year, despite the challenges of the pandemic and changes in our leadership team, has seen a modest surplus.

This result is mainly due to an increase in the value of our share portfolio, together with some additional COVID-19 funding, which offset recruitment costs and some historic salary adjustments. Staffing costs increased but were funded from the National Strategic Action Plan Grants which provided additional income.

The total revenue for the year was $4,040,001. The organisation saw an increase in equity of $889,677, almost entirely as a result of increase in the value of the investment portfolio.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds consist of specific-purpose bequests and donations and funds from National Strategic Action Plan grants and other federally funded projects.

Restricted Funds reported a net surplus of $91,534. This is mainly due to profit on sale of shares. The total restricted funds under administration have increased by $ 816,912 due to receipt of income and movement of term deposits into the portfolio funds.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Unrestricted funds support our operational costs and consist of public donations and bequests. Additional funding is from Accessible Design (the accessible packaging advisory division) and fees from trademark licences. Federal government grant funding includes an element of contribution towards operational costs.

Unrestricted Funds produced a modest surplus of $10,737.

This year has seen a decline in donations and bequests as compared to previous years. The favourable surplus recorded has been mainly attributable to savings in project management, the reduction in operational costs, and the impact of COVID-19 relief including Job Keeper together with acquittal of project funding costs.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Total investment at the end of the financial year was $6,345,472 as compared to $4,770,319 in 2020. The portfolio consists mainly of equities and cash deposits. It is actively managed by Koda Capital, now following the revised Investment Policy which was approved by the Board in March 2021.

CASH POSITION/LIQUIDITY

The Cash Position as at 30th June 2021 was $4,196,128, a decrease of $312,789 from last financial year end. This is mainly due to the distribution of National Strategic Action Plan payments to Affiliate organisations and other contracting parties.

BALANCE SHEET

Accumulated equity at the end of the financial year increased by $889,677 to $6,827,504. This is almost entirely as a result of the performance of our investment portfolio

There were no major variances recorded in the movement of the other Balance Sheet items.

OUTLOOK

The impact of the pandemic continued from the previous year into this financial year as foreshadowed in the last report, together with exceptional items of income and expenditure. We expect the first half of financial year 2022, if not the full financial year, to be more stable. Executive Management and the Board are reviewing the sustainability of operations, implementing management and cost controls to continue delivery on committed projects, and exploring new revenue streams. The movement to a new investment fund manager together with the revised Investment Policy has added a greater degree of control. The Board also completed a review of internal finance operations which has and will continue to aid budgeting and forecasting.

Financial position

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		$	$
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	4,196,128	4,508,917
Receivables	5	260,729	364,420
Financial Assets	6	6,345,472	4,770,319
Total Current Assets		**10,802,329**	**9,643,656**
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	7	27,548	12,570
Right of Use Asset	8	112,603	457,094
Total Non-Current Assets		**140,151**	**469,664**
Total Assets		**10,942,480**	**10,113,320**
Current Liabilities			
Payables	9	3,921,935	3,622,500
Short term provisions	10	52,291	53,200
Lease Liability		91,234	76,727
Total Current Liabilities		**4,065,460**	**3,752,427**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provision for Employee Benefits		25,988	23,844
Lease Liability		23,528	399,222
Total Non-Current Liabilities		**49,516**	**423,066**
Total Liabilities		**4,114,976**	**4,175,493**
Net Assets		**6,827,504**	**5,937,827**
Accumulated Funds			
Contractually restricted funds		6,328,612	5,511,700
Unrestricted funds		498,892	426,127
		6,827,504	**5,937,827**

Profit & Loss

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the year ended 30 June 2021

INCOME	Note	2021	2020
		$	$
Donations/fundraising			
General		3,372,583	2,201,775
Affiliates	11	127,750	192,750
Total		**3,500,333**	**2,394,525**
Membership Fees		800	960
Investments			
Interest		10,480	23,822
Profit /(Loss) on Sale		95,084	(9,551)
Dividends		238,569	276,214
Total		**344,133**	**290,485**
Other		194,735	99,468
Total Income	**2**	**4,040,001**	**2,785,438**
Expenses			
Research	13	824,665	1,044,225
Education & Awareness		2,070,400	1,065,419
Administration		866,310	582,377
Fundraising		78,398	154,515
Depreciation	7	89,327	93,021
Lease Interest		8,631	18,690
Total Expenses		**3,937,731**	**2,958,247**
Surplus/(Deficit)	**19**	**102,270**	**(172,809)**
Other Comprehensive income			
Net Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of Financial Assets		787,407	(867,607)
Other Comprehensive (Loss) / Income for the Year		787,407	(867,607)
Total Comprehensive Income/ (Loss) / Income for the Year		889,677	(1,040,416)
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to members of the entity		102,270	(172,809)
Total Comprehensive Gain/(Loss) / Income attributable to members of the entity		**889,677**	**(1,040,416)**

Revenue & Expenditure

Following is the summary of revenue & expenditure of Arthritis Australia

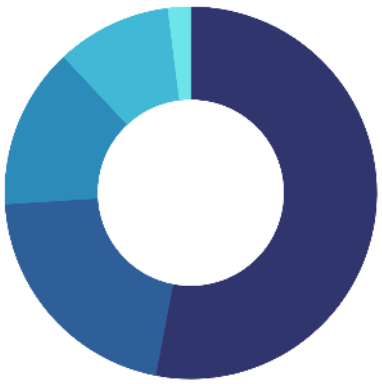
ASSETS HELD	**$10,942,480**
LIABILITIES HELD	**$4,114,979**

REVENUE

Funding for consumer projects, resources & information	$2,152,359	53%
National Research Program sponsorships/donations	$662,052	16%
Income from other Sources	$530,052	13%
Income from Investments	$344,133	9%
Government Grants	$194,735	5%
Accessible Design	$156,670	4%
TOTAL	**$4,040,001**	**100%**

EXPENDITURE

Funding for consumer projects, resources & information	$2,074,449	53%
National Research Program sponsorships/donations	$824,665	21%
Employee Expenses	$541,382	14%
Other Expenses	$393,700	10%
Accessible Design	$103,535	2%
TOTAL	**$3,937,731**	**100%**



10. Donors & Supporters

We are extremely thankful to our donors and supporters who have helped to advance our work in raising awareness, delivering education and support services, providing annual research grants and developing advocacy programs. Many have contributed expertise, time, funding, goods and services.

Thank you for your support.

Awareness and education

AbbVie Pty Ltd
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Gilead Sciences
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Parliamentary Friends of Arthritis

Senator Carol Brown, Convenor, the Senate, Canberra
Hon Dr David Gillespie MP, Convenor, House of Representatives, Canberra

2020-2021 Donations of $500+

The Gabriele Ross Ankenbauer Legacy
Carol Austin
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In memory of Caroline Cousins
Estate of Mary Craig
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Estate of the late Jaqueline Gail Turner
Amanda Ugo
Bruce & Maureen Wallis
Wilson Asset Management
Christine Woodruff

2020-2021 Fundraising of $500+

Elly Baker
Peter Orenstein

Our supporters

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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11. Arthritis information & contacts

For all arthritis information:
Arthritis Infoline 1800 011 041 – www.arthritisaustralia.com.au

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Jonathan Smithers, Chief Executive Officer

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Rebecca Davey, Chief Executive Officer

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Hilary Fowler, Secretary

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www.arthritiswa.org.au
Ric Forlano, Executive Director

Arthritis AUSTRALIA

No matter who you are, or your experience with arthritis, we're here to help you manage your symptoms and get on with life.
www.arthritisaustralia.com.au

myRA RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS SUPPORT PROGRAM

A consumer support website dedicated to rheumatoid arthritis. www.myra.org.au

myPsA PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS SUPPORT PROGRAM

A consumer support website dedicated to psoriatic arthritis.
www.mypsoriaticarthritis.org.au

MyJointPain.org.au

Information and self-management plans tailored for people who have joint pain or been diagnosed with osteoarthritis.
www.myjointpain.org.au

MyBackPain.org.au an Arthritis Australia initiative

Information and self-management for people living with low back pain.
www.mybackpain.org.au

empowered

Online support for Australians living with rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis.
www.empowered.org.au

12. Our team

Jonathan Smithers
CEO
(Appointed 11/20)

Franca Marine
National Policy & Government Relations Manager

Fahima Fouzdeen
Finance Manager
(from 4/21)

Alex Brayshaw
Senior Technical & Design Lead

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Patricia Aviet
Administration

Lindsey Parks
Digital & Social

Maryanne Ng
Project Manager
(from 9/20)

Courtney Brown
Project Officer
(from 9/20)

Hannah Atkin
Special Projects
(until 10/21)

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