



## Annual Report 2021



*a year's overview*

# CEO REPORT



Emerge Australia has continued to deliver a range of services and support to people with ME/CFS despite the major challenges that COVID-19 has placed on the operations and sustainability of organisations within the 'for purpose' and commercial sectors.

As Emerge Australia's new CEO it gives me great pleasure to report on the work of the organisation for the 2020/2021 financial year. Through the support of both State and Federal Governments, our donors, philanthropic partners and volunteers, work has continued across our key areas, with major highlights including:

- the launch of our new patient and carer support initiative, the Online Community Forum and Peer Support Groups
- launch of our second GP Education module through ThinkGP
- launch of the You+ME Australia Registry enabling Australians to contribute towards the largest dataset of those with ME/CFS globally
- publication of our second Health & Wellbeing Report, titled: Lifelong Lockdown – lessons learned from Health & Wellbeing survey of those with ME/CFS. The final report is a powerful tool that increases understanding of ME/CFS and drives must-needed change across the health, disability and education sectors.

In October 2020 Emerge Australia was thrilled to announce our partnership with Open Medicine Foundation (OMF) in the launch of the fifth OMF International Research Collaboration. This partnership links funding of ME/CFS research in Australia to collaborative projects around the world allowing our donors to directly fund critical research to help more than 250,000 Australians living with ME/CFS.

In Australia, news of NHMRC's Targeted Call for Research grants program, saw several key projects involving high quality biomedical research being funded. This will enable our capacity to help further our understanding of ME/CFS and work toward effective treatments for people struggling with this disabling disease. Emerge Australia has relationships with all grant recipients and looks forward to supporting these research projects in any way we can.

Having joined Emerge Australia in mid-June 2021 I have big shoes to fill following the departure of Dr. Heidi Nicholl. I acknowledge and thank Heidi for her achievements during her time as CEO. Supporters and members of Emerge Australia can feel confident that Emerge Australia is forging ahead with a new Strategic Plan and Business Plan currently being implemented across four new business units of: Education; Advocacy; Research and Support.

I wish to congratulate and thank the wonderful staff at Emerge Australia for their loyalty, commitment and support. My thanks are extended to Ambassador Casey Stoner, all our generous donors, partners, funders and volunteers without whose support our work would not be possible.

Finally I thank the Emerge Australia Board chaired by Mark Clisby whose vision and strategy it is my privilege to implement and deliver.

We look forward to reporting on our exciting new programs and services in our next Annual Report.

**Anne Wilson, Chief Executive Officer**

*a year's overview*

# BOARD CHAIR



We are proud of our continued work to improve the understanding of ME/CFS, while developing impactful services that support our community. Despite the turbulence and disruption of the last 12 months, we have sought to keep focus on what we need to do to advance the values and vision of Emerge Australia.

There have been many highlights during this difficult year. A review of our strategy facilitated by Nick Ingram, of clearthinking.co, has led to the Board adopting our new Strategic Plan, that will guide us to 2024. We had another positive year financially, and after more than 40 years in existence, are able to say confidently that we have achieved a level of financial sustainability. Important steps were taken to continue to grow awareness of ME/CFS within Government, the medical profession and in the wider community. This has brought increased focus to ME/CFS, especially as Long COVID has been identified. Our Biobank project continued to build momentum, despite unavoidable delays due to lockdowns. The Board commenced an internal review of governance to ensure that we are best placed to meet any challenges, and to support our CEO and the broader Emerge Australia team, as needed.

The CEO role is particularly demanding in a small NGO like Emerge Australia. In May 2021, Anne Wilson was appointed as our new CEO following an extensive recruitment process. The Board has been gratified by Anne's strategic focus, energy and initiative and thanks her and the whole Emerge team for their excellent work. Anne had big shoes to fill in succeeding Dr Heidi Nicholl as CEO and she has done so admirably.

The Board expresses immense thanks and best wishes to Heidi for her amazing contribution, particularly in building relations with key stakeholders,

taking opportunities to build services and to secure research and funding income, that has created a more financially stable organisation. The Board also wishes to thank Amy Gibson who ably acted in the CEO role during the recruitment process.

Emerge Australia is reliant on the commitment, skill and capability of all those who are involved in our work. I would like to thank our CEO, our staff and volunteers, Board and subcommittee members, our Emerge Australia membership and our generous donors and supporters.

So much of our year at Emerge has been spent working from home and in online meetings and events. As we close a difficult year we look forward to a hopefully more positive environment and outlook in 2022.

**Mark Clisby, Board Chair**

## TREASURER'S REPORT



Emerge continues to strengthen its equity base recording a surplus of \$75,555 for the 2020/21 Financial Year with our Member Funds climbing to \$703,892. New revenue streams have been created providing a stable and secure platform from which to continue and expand the operations of the organisation. To this end, we have experienced a growth in our team headed by new CEO, Anne Wilson.

A big thank you to our donors, supporters, members, staff and volunteers who make our activities possible.

**Russell Smith FIPA; FFA; FNTAA, Treasurer**

About

# OUR WORK

*Our work gives hope and help to the estimated 250,000 Australians living with ME/CFS.*

We are focused on delivering in four key areas:

- Delivering high-impact education for clinicians and allied health professionals to improve the quality of care.
- Representing the rights and experiences of all Australians living with ME/CFS through advocacy that brings about systemic change.
- Contribute towards the development of biomedical research that improves the outcomes for people living with ME/CFS.
- Delivery of accessible support services that empowers people living with ME/CFS to navigate the complex medical and social support systems.

About

## EMERGE AUSTRALIA

### Our mission

Every Australian diagnosed with ME/CFS receives effective medical and other services without stigma or discrimination.

### Our vision

Australians with ME/CFS achieve the highest quality of life possible.

### Our values

To serve the best interests of people affected by ME/CFS with integrity, compassion and empathy.

Key challenges of

## ME/CFS IN AUSTRALIA

ESTIMATED

25%

OF THOSE IMPACTED HAVE SEVERE ME/CFS LEAVING THEM BEDBOUND

14.5b

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ME/CFS

48%

PATIENTS REPORT THEIR GP WAS POORLY INFORMED ABOUT ME/CFS

**No diagnostic test**  
**No treatment**  
**No cure**

# OUR IMPACT

## Our reach

**223,273**

Website page views, by  
**81,502** individual users

**272,050**

People reached through  
Facebook

**27,194**

Average tweet impressions  
per month

**12%**

Increase in newsletter  
subscribers

## Our community

Online  
Community  
Forum launched  
in February 2021!



**10,820**

Unique users since the launch,  
contributing 3,017 posts across  
363 topics

**42**

Hours of peer support and online  
classes delivered via the Online  
Community Support Groups

## Our research



Australian  
You + ME Registry  
launched

**551**



Registry participants

**6**



Talented research groups  
granted access to the Biobank

## Our services

**63**

Average calls received per  
month to the InfoLine, 95%  
answered in 24 hours

**171**

Average monthly email  
enquiries, 90% answered in  
24 hours

**578**

Total Telehealth Nurse Service  
appointment requests received, an  
average of 48 per month

**947**

Total Telehealth Nurse  
consultation calls completed

## Our education

**MODULE 2**

We launched our second  
ThinkGP education module  
for GPs and other healthcare  
practitioners

**518**

GP Education module completions

## Awareness raising

In May we raise awareness of the  
#MillionsMissing in Australia  
with a social media campaign to  
bring the experiences of those  
living with ME/CFS out of the  
shadows.

**64,943**

People engaged across social  
media

**530**

Missing posters created and  
posted to social media by people  
living with ME/CFS

**64**

#SayME Challenge videos submitted,  
including 18 from Federal and State  
politicians



**100,000+**

PEOPLE REACHED  
THROUGH CASEY  
SHARING HIS STORY

*Raising the profile of ME/CFS*

## CASEY STONER AMBASSADOR

We were thrilled to welcome two-time MotoGP World Champion and motorcycle racing legend Casey Stoner as the official Ambassador for Emerge Australia to help raise awareness for ME/CFS.

Casey has spoken candidly with Emerge Australia about the devastating impact the condition has had on his life, his career and his young family. While he publicly announced his diagnosis with ME/CFS in December 2019, he had started experiencing severe fatigue, brain fog and post-exertional malaise in 2018.

"I very quickly went downhill," he said. "I started to get some extreme symptoms and then struggled to get out of bed in the morning, even just to get to the couch. That was a huge challenge for me. It just wasn't making sense how little energy I had and why it was consuming me day by day, month by month."

By the start of 2019 Casey was bedridden. It took 10 months of research and consulting with doctors before he was diagnosed with ME/CFS and began learning to manage his symptoms.

"Your whole world crumbles," he said. "What really hurt for me was my kids, especially my youngest one. She's never seen me as anything but what I am now. The disappointed look on her face when she wants me to do something and I can't, I really just can't go and run around with her or chase her or play with her."

With careful pacing and a better understanding of his condition, Casey has improved since his diagnosis but he said he still struggles every day.

*"Throughout my racing career, if I was very self-driven and able to overcome mental and physical challenges. Now it's about beating this debilitating medical condition. It's about learning how to walk again rather than run. I slowly started to understand where I had to save energy and where I had to use my energy more intelligently throughout the day and it has improved my situation."*

We look forward to having Casey as an ongoing member of the Emerge Australia family as we continue to raise awareness of ME/CFS.



*Listen to Casey's story*

[vimeo.com/469979972/d3ed8bf40d](https://vimeo.com/469979972/d3ed8bf40d)





518

ME/CFS EDUCATION  
MODULE 1 & 2  
COMPLETIONS

*Delivering high impact education*

## SECOND GP EDUCATION MODULE LAUNCHED

### ***A patient centred approach to ME/CFS for GPs***

In April 2021, Emerge Australia launched Module 2 in our practitioner education program, titled “Ensuring a patient-centred approach to care for people living with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS)”.

Module 2 focuses on how to accurately diagnose and care for people with ME/CFS. Failure to diagnose or misdiagnosis of ME/CFS are two, significant problems that affect patient outcomes. Module 2 promotes the necessity of taking time with the patient to complete an in-depth assessment of their medical history and symptoms. Case studies, peer reviewed articles and diagnostic criteria educate about how to identify or exclude a diagnosis of ME/CFS.

In the case of a ME/CFS diagnosis, patient-centered management techniques are recommended and explained. These include concepts like how to coordinate a multi-disciplinary team approach to care and how to manage specific populations (i.e. severely unwell, young, or undergoing surgery). Specific management techniques like pacing and rest are also explained.

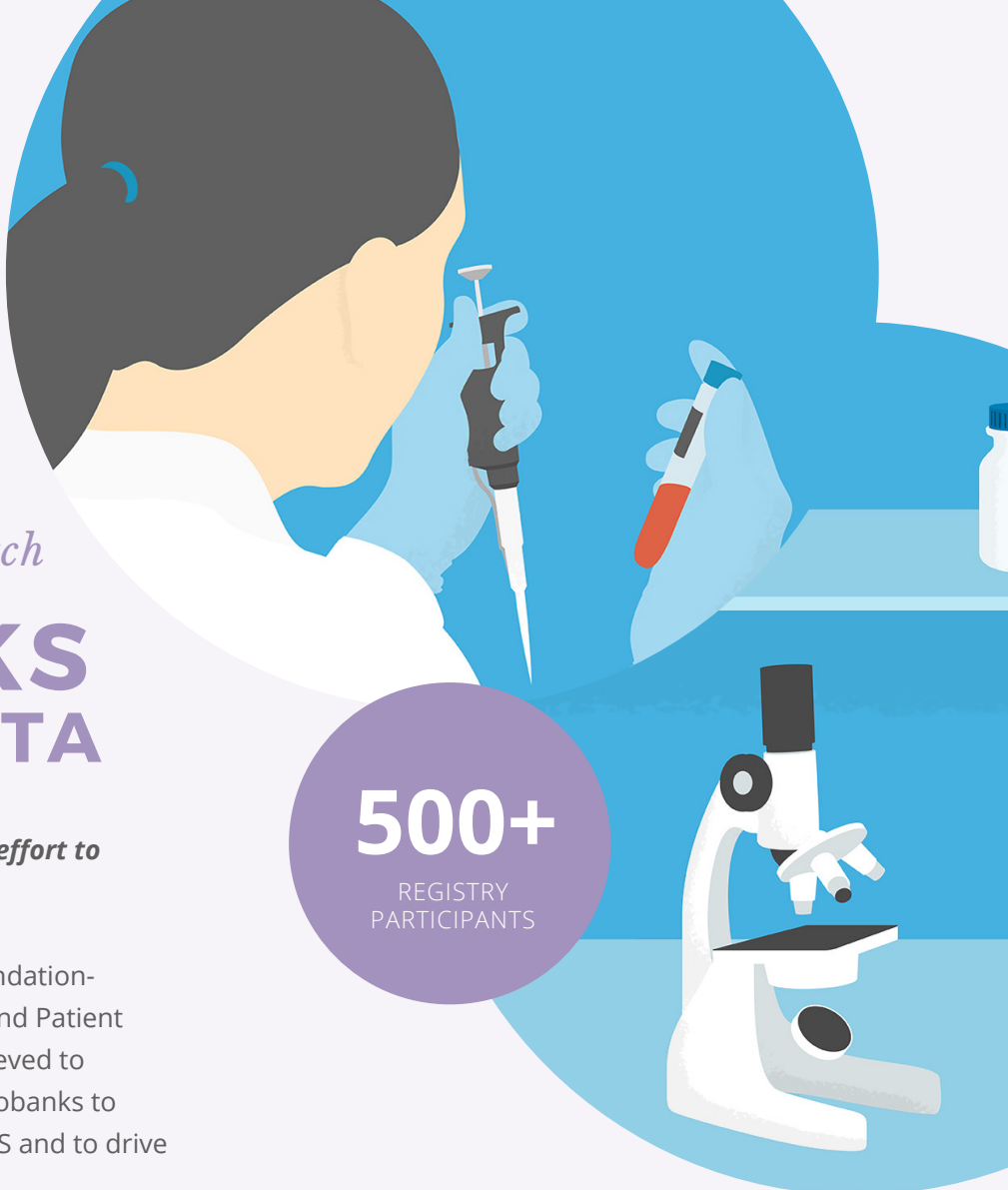
Increasing knowledge and understanding of ME/CFS is essential to improving patient outcomes. With the launch of Module 2, GPs and other health professionals are now able to complete two education modules about ME/CFS. Both are hosted by Think GP, a national, accredited training portal. As of September 2021, 96 people have completed Module 2. Our target is 500 completions by April 2022. Module 1, “Busting the myths and redefining myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS)”, has been completed by 422 people since its re-launch in January 2020.

Both Modules are promoted by Emerge Australia, Think GP and our community. Community promotion has been an essential part of spreading the word and helping us reach our 500 completions target. We encourage you to download a flier from the Emerge Australia website to send or hand deliver to your GP.



*Learn more here*

[emerge.org.au/thinkgp-modules](https://emerge.org.au/thinkgp-modules)



*World-leading Research*

## BIOBANKS AND BIG DATA

***Australians contribute to the global effort to understand ME/CFS***

In the second year of the Mason Foundation-Funded Australian ME/CFS Biobank and Patient Registry project, much has been achieved to harness the power of big data and biobanks to increase the understanding of ME/CFS and to drive the discovery of blood biomarkers.

In partnership with Solve M.E, the You+ME Australian patient registry was launched in April 2021, enabling people living with ME/CFS and healthy controls to contribute to a landmark undertaking to create the largest global dataset to understand ME/CFS. To date over 500 participants have registered, joining more than 3000 participants globally with over one million data points recorded. The Registry employs a series of questionnaires to capture a participant's medical history, current treatments and quality of life upon sign up, as well as following their progress longitudinally. The collation of this rich dataset from You+ ME Registry participants globally will be invaluable for researchers studying ME/CFS, to improve their quality of life, uncover better diagnostics and treatments for ME/CFS.

**500+**

REGISTRY  
PARTICIPANTS

The ME/CFS Biobank continues to actively operate to attract both medical researchers and patient participation to benefit ME/CFS research.

At present, we have six talented research groups nationwide that have been granted access to the Biobank, as well as several projects that are currently under review, including La Trobe University, Deakin University, Macquarie University, The Garvin Institute, and the Australian National University.

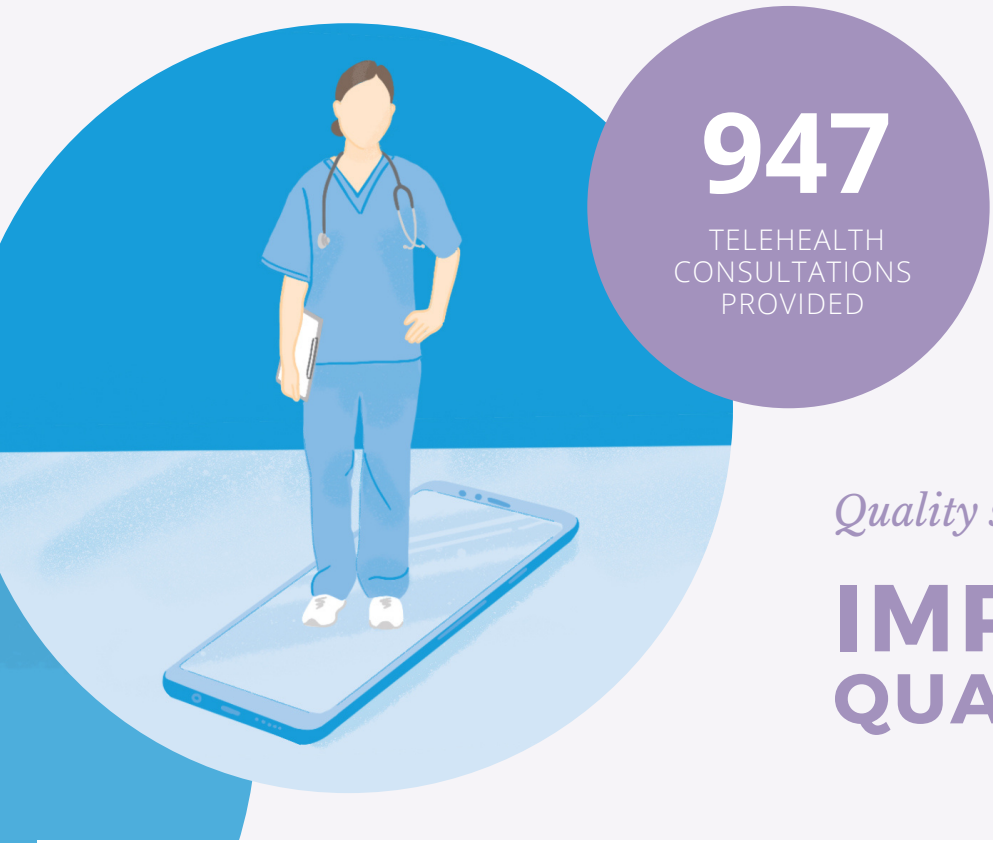
The impact of COVID-19 lockdowns has slowed the progress for blood sampling and collection, however, the development of critical infrastructure and protocols to support these activities have been realised, enabling a strong foundation to be built upon.



*Sign up to the registry*

[emerge.org.au/biobank-registry](https://emerge.org.au/biobank-registry)





947

TELEHEALTH  
CONSULTATIONS  
PROVIDED

*Quality services for patients*

## IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

### ***Building the capacity for ME/CFS patients for self-advocacy and self-management***

In the second year of the Federally-funded Telehealth Nurse Patient Pathways pilot project, delivered in partnership with the Centre for Community-Driven Research, the program provided over 947 consultations to 444 ME/CFS patients and carers across Australia.

Through a case management approach, the service aims to deliver high-impact support to patients to build their capacity to reengage with the healthcare system. This is achieved through improving the patient's levels of health literacy, discussing individual barriers to accessing care and creating a plan for the patient's next medical appointment. This approach has seen patients rebuild trust and increase confidence with healthcare professionals and try again with the healthcare system after previous failed attempts.

A tool central to the capacity building of patients is the medical history summary, which due to the complex nature of ME/CFS symptoms can typically take up to 10 hours to complete across five consultations. To ensure timely access to this crucial tool, the medical history summary has been transitioned into a refined Telehealth Summary. This Summary is completed in a third of the time as the previous tool and enables patients to clearly

communicate their experience of ME/CFS and the impact of post-exertional malaise (PEM), to their healthcare team.

The Summary also provides links to the Emerge Australia website and includes links to Pacing (energy management strategies), post-exertional malaise (PEM) education, and the Emerge Australia Financial Literacy workshop. This information increases their knowledge and understanding of ME/CFS, building capacity to implement self-management strategies such as pacing.

With the early success of the Telehealth Summary, receiving positive feedback from patients through social media, the program found itself with an unforeseen waitlist of up to eight months. To meet capacity and reduce administration time, an online booking system was introduced in August 2020. With additional nursing hours and the continuation of the triage system, consultations are available within a week of patients registering their interest in the service.



*Register for a  
consultation*

[emerge.org.au/telehealth-nurse-service](https://emerge.org.au/telehealth-nurse-service)

*Restoring hope*

## TEGAN'S STORY

Tegan was just 14 when she developed ME/CFS after a suspected infection with glandular fever, becoming so crushingly tired she frequently couldn't get out of bed let alone attend school.

Told by medical professionals that she had major depression and anxiety, Tegan spent more than a decade trying different recommended treatments and therapies under different doctors, blaming herself for her failure to improve.

By 2021 Tegan had had enough.

*"I was being palmed off because the doctors didn't understand or didn't believe me because I looked 'healthy'. I thought there had to be more, surely people like me aren't just left to live and die like this?"*

Finding Emerge Australia and its free Telehealth Nurse Service on a Google search seemed "too good to be true," Tegan says. "The best part was that I didn't have to prove anything, I just explained I believed I had ME/CFS and that I was feeling crushed after from the lack of support from my GP and didn't know what to do next."

Over the course of two lengthy telehealth phone consultations, Tegan was able to explain her symptoms and situation to compassionate ears for the first time and was sent detailed documents and information about symptom management and support.

*"I felt so seen and heard. They gave me space to describe what I was going through while asking questions no doctor has asked me, about what my symptoms may be, validating that I did in fact need serious support with my condition."*



"I was given detailed information about pacing with a heart rate monitor and many other ways to help with the exacerbation of symptoms, and how to communicate with my GP and other health professionals, and my friends and family.

I have never had such a strong understanding of what I'm going through. I wear a heart rate monitor now and understand that over-exerting can happen quickly. They have given me the tools to advocate for myself, with the knowledge that there are people who will advocate for me when I am too tired or weak.

I am now 27 and I still feel like I have a distance to go on this journey but I would not have made it this far without this support, suggestions and extensive library of information. Emerge Australia is an organisation that truly advocates for those who are left unseen in the shadows."

Emerge Australia is grateful to Tegan for sharing her impactful story of how the Telehealth Nurse Service has supported her.



*Support our Telehealth Nurse Service*

[emerge.org.au/telehealthnurseservice](https://emerge.org.au/telehealthnurseservice)

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

## *Statement of Profit and Loss*

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Sales		3,014	3,119
Government Grants - Recurrent		49,895	48,923
Government Grants - Non Recurrent		315,843	289,028
Grants - Tied		43,000	56,161
Grants - Non Tied		20,000	16,000
Membership		15,186	14,215
Gifts and Donations		517,515	751,613
Interest		500	1,209
Other Income		260,998	93,903
		<u>1,225,951</u>	<u>1,274,171</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Accommodation		32,811	26,258
Facilities and Equipment		180	7,281
Staffing Costs		683,849	542,643
Communication		2,125	10,806
Insurance		1,072	996
Emerge Journal Costs		8,087	9,178
Administration		33,824	40,261
Program Costs		388,448	493,642
		<u>1,150,396</u>	<u>1,131,065</u>
Surplus before income tax expense		75,555	143,106
Income tax expense	1a	-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year net of income tax		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income after income tax for the period		<u><u>75,555</u></u>	<u><u>143,106</u></u>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

## *Statement of Financial Position*

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	1,181,393	1,721,424
Trade and other receivables	3	9,477	37,553
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,190,870</u>	<u>1,758,977</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	<u>4,319</u>	<u>4,440</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>4,319</u>	<u>4,440</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,195,189</u>	<u>1,763,417</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	6	465,933	1,107,865
Provisions	7	<u>25,364</u>	<u>27,215</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>491,297</u>	<u>1,135,080</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>491,297</u>	<u>1,135,080</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>703,892</u>	<u>628,337</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained surplus		<u>703,892</u>	<u>628,337</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>703,892</u>	<u>628,337</u>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

## *Statement of Cash Flows*

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from sales		3,014	3,119
Grants		188,558	327,279
Other receipts		831,252	822,706
Payments to employees and staffing costs		(685,700)	(534,071)
Payments to suppliers and others		(876,766)	(194,089)
Interest received		500	1,209
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	8	<u>(539,142)</u>	<u>426,153</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for purchase of property and equipment		<u>(889)</u>	<u>(6,553)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(889)</u>	<u>(6,553)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(540,031)	419,600
Cash at the beginning of the year		<u>1,721,424</u>	<u>1,301,824</u>
Cash at the end of the year	2	<u><u>1,181,393</u></u>	<u><u>1,721,424</u></u>



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
EMERGE AUSTRALIA INC.

**Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial report, of Emerge Australia Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of Emerge Australia Inc. has been prepared in accordance with Div 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act)* including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complies with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and Div 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

*Basis for Opinion*

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the association in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

*Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting*

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the association's reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

*Responsibility of the Committee for the Financial Report*

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 of the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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



### *Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report*

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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions that may cause the to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Sean Denham

Dated: 12th November 2021

Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road  
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

# OUR PEOPLE

## Emerge Australia Staff

Anne Wilson	Chief Executive Officer
Amy Gibson	Operations Manager
Rochelle Lade, PhD	Education Manager
Kate Herbert	Nurse Educator
Laura Allen	Health & Support Services Manager
Rebecca Bramley	Information & Support Services Officer
Michelle Tavoletti, PhD	Research Manager
Jessica Kauhausen, PhD	Biobank Coordinator
Simone Eyssens	Research Director

**Previous staff members:**

Heidi Nicholl, Jen Temm, Sarah Corderoy, Louise De Pino, Jen O'Byan, Carly Wade, Paula Gething, Wendy Foster, Marie Cameron, Judy Ephraums, Danielle Martin, Kate Mills.

## Board of Management

Mark Clisby	President
Martin Wilkinson	Vice President
Andrew Bretherton	Secretary
Russell Smith	Treasurer
Rebecca Davey	Board Member
Nola Miles	Board Member
Caitlin Phillips-Peddlesden	Board Member

## Fundraising Committee

Stephen May  
John Jeffries

## Volunteers

Jenny Meagher  
Carol van Eerden  
Maria Stramatakos  
Jason Murphy  
Jen Ellis  
Jop Purnell  
Louise Moodie  
Jolien Hendrix  
Sarah Hookey  
Dave Long  
Gretchen Netterfield  
Kevin Li  
Louise De Pino

# OUR SUPPORTERS

## Funders

Department of Health, Prevention and Population  
Commonwealth Department of Health  
Centre for Community-Driven Research  
The Mason Foundation

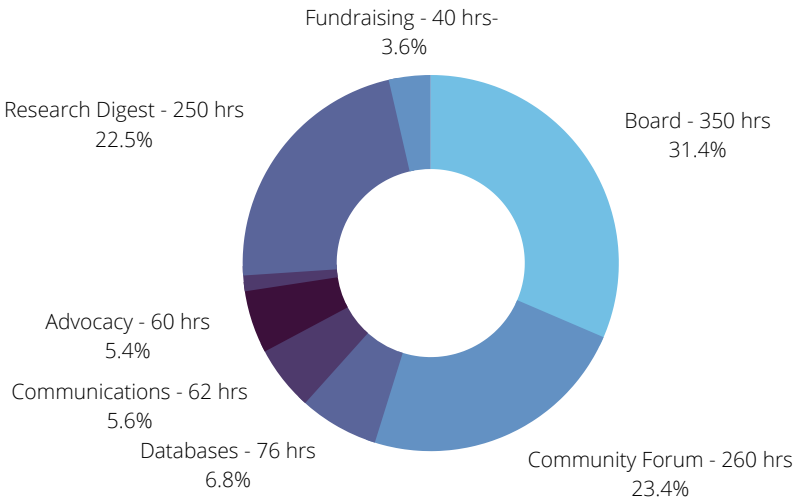
## Major Supporters

Adriana Stoner  
Blake-Beckett Trust  
Els Bakker  
Harper Bernays Charitable Trust  
John and Penny McBain  
John Sevier  
McCusker Charitable Foundation  
Phyllis Connor Memorial Foundation  
S.L Bray Memoria Foundation  
The Louise & Martyn Myer Foundation  
The Marion R Stobo Endowment  
The William Angliss (VIC) Charitable Fund  
William and Katharine Ranken

## Lifetime members

Helen Clark, Jennifer Droop, Yvette Gebert  
Lia Henry, Irene Herceg, Maureen Jepson  
Bernhard Liedtke, Nola Miles,  
Simon Molesworth AO QC, James Oakley,  
Margaret Pianella, Marianne Punshon  
Pamela Saunders.

## Total Volunteer Hours



# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

We're committed to improving the lives of all Australians living with ME/CFS. There's a number of ways you can support our work:

## Make a donation

Every donation is an act of support which enables us to empower Australians living with ME/CFS

**Donate today**  
[emerge.org.au/donate](https://emerge.org.au/donate)

## Give Regularly

By becoming a monthly giver you can support the ongoing financial sustainability of the organisation.

**Sign up to give monthly**  
[emerge.org.au/givemonthly](https://emerge.org.au/givemonthly)

## Leave a gift in your will

Support the next generation of Australians impacted by ME/CFS

**Find out more**  
[emerge.org.au/bequest-giving](https://emerge.org.au/bequest-giving)

## Become a member

By joining and supporting us, you will be helping to advance our cause to improve the lives of everyone with ME/CFS and their families.

**Sign up today**  
[emerge.org.au/membership-information](https://emerge.org.au/membership-information)



**Connect with us**

Freecall 1800 865 321  
[emerge.org.au](https://emerge.org.au)

