



## Annual Report 2022



## The Year in Review

# CEO REPORT



The events of the past twelve months necessitated that Emerge Australia draw on the immense talent, resilience and commitment of our team to improve health outcomes for Australia's ME/CFS community.

There's nothing like a global pandemic, with its associated restrictions and lockdowns, coupled with political upheaval resulting in a change of government federally, just before the end of the financial year, to create confusion and uncertainty for patients and families.

It is against this backdrop that I reflect on Emerge Australia's achievements on your behalf, providing clear direction to all our stakeholders regarding our commitment to ensure the ME/CFS patient voice is heard nationally.

While the organisation posted a financial loss to 30 June, this was a result of the implementation of a growth strategy to address staff remuneration, new positions, systems upgrades and public relations. Our financial position is expected to improve in the 22/23 financial year with the appointment of a Business Development & Fundraising Manager, as well as a Digital Communications and Social Media Manager. Additionally, our focus on awareness raising in the media and with MPs nationally is already gaining traction.

Staying true to our values and strategic direction, we set about identifying five priorities for the next 3-5 years that form the cornerstone of all our work.

We enshrined these priorities in our report, *State of the Nation: Because people with ME/CFS matter*, and we systematically embarked on an advocacy campaign designed to bring about a shift in how ME/CFS is seen by politicians, clinicians and the broader community.

We listened to people with ME/CFS, who told us they cannot find a clinician with the necessary knowledge about ME/CFS to care for them. In response we joined forces with the North-Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN), the RACGP and a multi-disciplinary team including those with ME/CFS, to create a ME/CFS HealthPathway, with links to the Long COVID HealthPathway. It's a first, but important, step that we are hopeful will be harmonised with other PHNs around the country for consistency of approach and management of patients.

Thanks to our donors, we created a digital program that, when populated via the Emerge Australia website, with the consent of clinicians, will allow patients to find a GP or Primary Care Clinic with experience in ME/CFS anywhere in Australia by postcode. We plan to launch this program in FY 22/23.

Dr. Richard Schloeffel, OAM, joined our team as Emerge Australia's Medical Director and we revitalised the Medical & Scientific Advisory Committee to guide clinical education and research priorities going forward.

To that end, Richard has spoken to over 500 clinicians across Australia at the General Practice Conference & Exhibition (GPCE) on *Long COVID and ME/CFS: Diagnosis, treatment and management options*.

Feedback from this critical work has highlighted the immense need for greater education and support for our front-line clinicians, nationally. The next twelve months will see us expand our deliverables in this priority area.

Demand for Emerge Australia's direct service delivery, via our Patient Information & Support Service, has been unprecedented over the past 12 months. Our clinical staff have supported patients and carers via telehealth, supporting people with ME/CFS and/or Long COVID. In addition, our incredibly talented team have worked to publish position statements, write submissions, newsletters and the Research Digest as well as spearhead advocacy nationally. The pandemic impacted blood collection for our BioBank with LaTrobe University – a critical project that is now thankfully moving ahead once again.

We invested in social media, interviewed patients and carers, secured the support of the media in raising awareness and collaborated with state and federal governments to bring the issues of our community to the fore.

All of the above, and more, has been achieved by a group of nine talented and highly qualified people, half of whom live with ME/CFS. Their professionalism, talent and commitment to Emerge Australia, and to me as CEO, is exceptional. I thank each and every staff member and also our loyal volunteers for the quality of your work and your passion to improve outcomes for patients.

More than ever, Emerge Australia is indebted to the financial support of our donors, philanthropic trusts and foundations, other supporters and federal and state governments. While we continue to operate on a shoestring, you have enabled our work to continue through your generosity. Thank you all most sincerely for your understanding and assistance through an unprecedented, difficult period.

I am privileged to work with a very supportive Board of Directors. My thanks are extended to Mark Clisby Board Chair and to all Directors for your guidance, encouragement and support.

Emerge Australia has delivered well over the past year but our work has only just begun. I can assure you that I, and all at Emerge Australia, are passionate about achieving the necessary levels of understanding, medical care, health policy change, research, patient support and advocacy necessary to improve the lives of those impacted by ME/CFS. Because people with ME/CFS matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Wilson".

**Anne Wilson, Chief Executive Officer**



*A Year's Overview*

## BOARD CHAIR

The 2021/22 FY has been significantly impacted by COVID, with most activities being conducted remotely. I wish to sincerely thank our CEO, Anne Wilson, and all the Emerge Australia staff and volunteers for so capably leading and managing our operations during such a sustained and difficult time of disruption.

Through Anne's leadership the team was able to work positively, flexibly and seamlessly both remote and in person to continue our work to support our community. We are proud of the quality of support provided and activities undertaken by staff and volunteers during what has been a challenging year.

Significant projects were initiated to address major areas of our work. This work will implement our Strategic Plan goals in the areas of:

- Services
- Advocacy and Policy
- Education and Awareness
- Research
- Clinical.

It will also address major emerging issues of importance to the Australian community including Long COVID and its intersection with ME/CFS, the clear need for greater support for ME/CFS and the need for a national post infection disease strategy

The Board has continued to support the work of management across all areas of governance, financial management and strategic direction.

Having undertaken an internal review, the Board looks forward to appointing additional Directors to fill identified skills gaps.

We sincerely thank all of the team at Emerge Australia and those individuals and organisations who support our work including those who contribute their time so generously.

On behalf of the Board, I thank all our supporters, donors, philanthropic funders, trusts and foundations and State and Federal Governments for investing in our work on behalf of those with ME/CFS and now Long COVID.

**Mark Clisby, Board Chair**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2021/22 Financial Year has seen a year of extreme challenges following the recovery from the pandemic. Not unlike other organisations, Emerge Australia has experienced significant decreases in revenue whilst maintaining the services provided.



The Board made the decision to invest in the organisation to make sure Emerge Australia came through the recovery with a sound platform and infrastructure base to continue providing the services from which some grants had ceased. This created a negative result for the year but the build up of reserves over prior years has mitigated the impact on our operations.

After 10 years of involvement with Emerge Australia, it is time for some new faces to take the organisation into the next phase. I thank all those who have made my journey an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

A big thank you to our donors, supporters, members, staff and volunteers who make a difference to our community.

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

About

# OUR WORK

*Our work goes toward supporting the estimated 250,000 Australians living with ME/CFS and Long COVID.*

We are focused on delivering in four key areas:

- High-impact education for clinicians and allied health professionals to improve their 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 and Long COVID to navigate 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

14.8b

ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ME/CFS

73%

PATIENTS REPORT LACK OF KNOWLEDGE FROM THEIR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER WAS AN OBSTACLE TO ACCESSING HEALTHCARE

**No diagnostic test  
No treatment  
No cure**

# OUR IMPACT

## Our reach

**294,000**

Website page views, by 100,969 individual users

**908,000**

People reached through Facebook

**15,500**

Average tweet impressions per month

**12.5%**

Increase in newsletter subscribers

## Our education

**500+**

GPs and Allied health professionals attended Dr Richard Schloeffell's plenary session and connected with the Emerge Australia booth at GPCE in Sydney

**335**

Think GP Education module completions

**498**

Views of *The Basics of ME/CFS* webinar

## Our research

With the COVID-19 pandemic fading. Blood samples were finally able to be collected for the ME/CFS Biobank

**704**



Registry participants

**71**



Patients recruited for 2 approved ME/CFS research projects

## Our services

**59**

Average calls received per month to the Patient Support & Information line, 95% answered in 24 hours

**180**

Average monthly email enquiries, 90% answered in 24 hours

**685**

Total Telehealth Nurse Service appointment requests received, an average of 57 per month

**2,095**

Total Telehealth Nurse consultation calls completed

## Our community

Webinar series developed for ME/CFS Awareness week!



**MAY 22**

**1000+**

Views of the webinar series with **3500** unique impressions

**131**

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

## Awareness raising

In April Emerge Australia released the report *State of the Nation: Because people with ME/CFS matter*, highlighting the five most urgent things our policymakers need to address to prepare for the coming surge in post-infection disease

**35,000**

People engaged across social media

**12,500+**

Emails sent to members of parliament with the *State of the Nation* report attached

**1308**



People added their name to a petition encouraging federal government to invest in ME/CFS over the next five years



14,500+

PEOPLE REACHED  
THROUGH BLOOM  
SHARING HER  
STORY

## *Building Greater Support and Awareness for ME/CFS*

# BLOOM



### **Emerge Australia welcomes recording artist Bloom as our newest Ambassador.**

We are delighted to announce that Amanda Canzurllo, who uses the stage name of Bloom, has joined EmERGE Australia as an Ambassador to help raise funds and awareness for ME/CFS at her shows which take place across Australia.

Amanda was diagnosed with glandular fever at the age of 16. After being bedridden for approximately 8-10 weeks she was then diagnosed with ME/CFS. Back then, before Facebook and widespread internet use, there wasn't much easily accessible research, patient information or support services.

When Amanda returned to high school, she averaged one day off a week in her senior studies and would fall asleep in class. This led to her needing to reduce her study load of senior subjects, as she lacked the energy and memory function to complete her studies.

Amanda says *"I lost the ability for a short time for my brain to convert information from short term to long term memory and had to resort back to rote learning. I also had to re-learn how to have a conversation. Not being able to find words to communicate knocked my confidence around. I was planning to go to university straight out of school to study nursing, but I couldn't because of not being able to complete my TEE exams."*

For over a decade Amanda went to a range of different healthcare practitioners seeking answers.

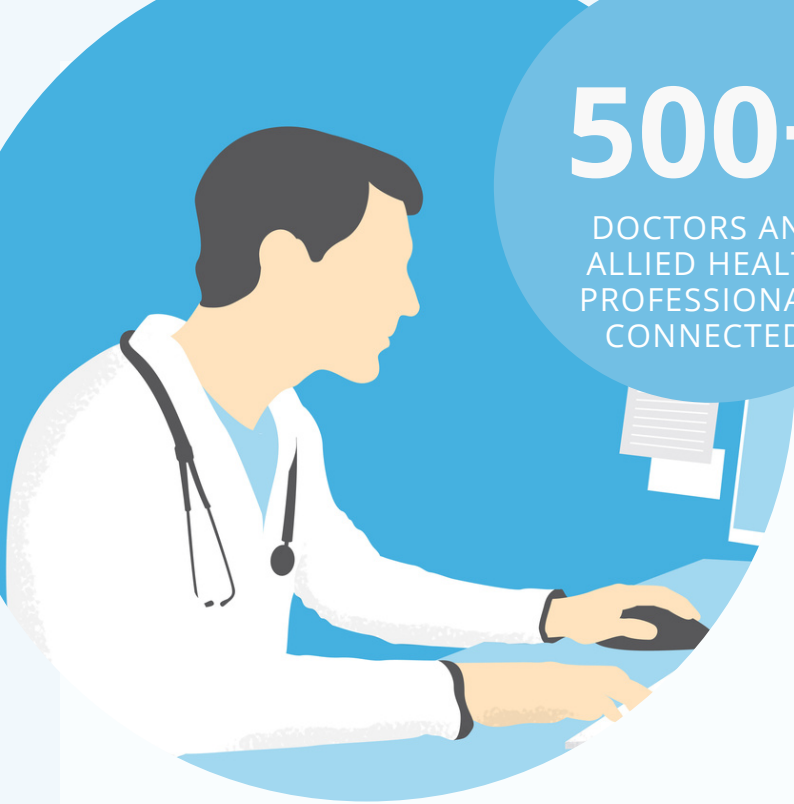
*"Holding down a full-time job in my early 20's was a struggle. I would be asleep by 7.30pm after a full day, or need to try and rest during lunch breaks. Sometimes I would have to go home half way through the day because I just didn't have the energy to get through."*

Amanda says that her memory has improved over time, but that managing her energy envelope was the hardest aspect of the disease. *"I am now a full-time touring artist. My lifestyle is much like shift work and I need to listen to my body and pace. It was a long road to get to the version of myself today and I am still a work-in-progress as I still have to actively manage my ME/CFS, but when I heard about the great work EmERGE Australia was doing I wanted to help"*.

*"I had never shared my diagnosis publicly, but in joining EmERGE Australia as an ambassador, and sharing my story, I hope to bring much needed awareness of this life-altering and disabling condition and raise much needed funds for EmERGE Australia to continue their vital work."*

*"We are thrilled to announce Amanda as an Ambassador for EmERGE Australia. With her support, we will be able to raise much needed funds for EmERGE Australia and awareness of ME/CFS at her concerts. Amanda is a talented singer who is passionate about supporting our work. Thank you Amanda for choosing to support us!"* EmERGE Australia CEO Anne Wilson said.

Visit <https://bloomofficial.com.au/> to find out when Bloom will next visit your nearest city.



500+

DOCTORS AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CONNECTED

84%

OF PARTICIPANTS SAID THEY NOW KNOW HOW TO APPLY EVIDENCE-BASED PRINCIPLES TO DIAGNOSE ME/CFS

*Delivering high impact education*

# GPCE SYDNEY MAY 27-29

## ***Our strategy to educate GPs about ME/CFS***

Emerge Australia successfully hosted a stall and delivered one of only three plenary addresses at the General Practice Conference and Exhibition (GPCE) in Sydney, 26 – 29 May 2022.

GPCE is the leading professional development conference for GPs in Australia. These conferences are targeted to GPs but practice nurses, practice staff, GP registrars, allied health professionals and medical students also attend. GPCE is one of the few opportunities to reach such a large cohort of healthcare professionals.

During the three-day conference, EmERGE Australia's conference team of Anne Wilson, Dr Richard Schloeffel, Dr Michelle Tavoletti and Dr Rochelle Lade connected with over 500 attendees, who reside across Australia. Of particular interest to many we spoke with was the need for more education for GPs, our national telehealth nurse service, and our two ThinkGP ME/CFS modules.

The highlight of the weekend was Dr Richard Schloeffel's presentation; *Long COVID and ME/CFS: Diagnosis, treatment and management options*.

The session was attended by over 300 conference participants and feedback was overwhelmingly positive with attendees learning more about management of patients who present with ME/CFS.

Attendees were also interested to learn about the links between ME/CFS and Long COVID, and how these new Long COVID patients can be better managed. Dr Schloeffel again advised to avoid worsening their symptoms, safe management techniques like pacing and rest should be used.

Feedback from Dr Schloeffel's presentation was overwhelmingly positive, with 80% of attendees reporting that Dr Schloeffel's presentation helped them to know how to educate patients in helpful management techniques, 84% said they now know how to apply evidence-based principles to diagnose ME/CFS, and avoid misdiagnosis and an impressive 88% said they can now evaluate when to consider a diagnosis of ME/CFS in Long COVID patients.

*"From now on, I will not force my patients with CFS for CBT or GET. Until today, I was under [the] impression, like many other doctors that CBT and GET [are a] key part in management but today I learnt that it can be quite detrimental to patients with this condition. Also I will keep in mind about EmERGE Australia as referral pathway and to learn more about this condition."* - attendee feedback



*Contact us if you are a health professional and would like education about ME/CFS*

[education@emerge.org.au](mailto:education@emerge.org.au)

700+

REGISTRY  
PARTICIPANTS



*World-Leading Research*

# IT'S ALL IN THE BLOOD

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

In its third year, the Mason Foundation-Funded Australian ME/CFS Biobank and Patient Registry project continues to be well supported by the Australian ME/CFS community. The project currently comprises over 700 participants, with these numbers steadily increasing.

Although the patient registry was officially launched in April 2021, its execution proved cumbersome due to the continued COVID-19 restrictions/lockdowns, that were imposed upon all of us.

Nonetheless, we used our 'interruption' wisely and managed to collect a small number of blood samples via the Chromic Study (Deakin University, Geelong), thanks to the generosity of our blood donors and the wonderful staff facilitating the Chromic study.

Whilst the number of blood samples collected in 2021, was significantly less than we had originally planned, we were able to utilise this opportunity to trial our processes and procedures. The feedback from patients and staff indicated that the process for blood collection was seamless and the personnel were accommodating and helpful.

Thank you so much to those of you who have already donated to the ME/CFS biobank. Your contribution is highly regarded and immensely appreciated!

Please know experiments are already underway utilising your blood samples and we hope to share the outcome of these research studies with you very shortly.

We anticipate that 2022/23 FY will be a productive and fruitful year for the ME/CFS biobank. Further blood collections are due to begin in NSW (Macquarie University) and later in the year, in Victoria (LaTrobe and Melbourne Universities).

We are currently immersed in the registry and patient recruitment, so please look out for an email request to be a donor!

In most cases, blood will be collected at your nearest Dorevitch Collection centre, and we will organise for the safe delivery of your blood sample to the respective research institutes, for processing and analysis thereafter.

For those of you who wish to be involved in ME/CFS research, there is still plenty of time to register your interest, if you haven't already done so via the You+ME (Aust.) registry.



*Sign up to the  
Registry Today!*

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





429

NEW PATIENTS  
CONNECTED WITH  
THE TELEHEALTH  
SERVICE

*Quality of Patient Research*

# IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

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

In the last year of the Federally-funded Telehealth Nurse Patient Pathways pilot project, delivered in partnership with the Centre for Community-Driven Research, the program provided a total of 2095 consultations to 1011 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 for those who need this additional support.

The updated 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 Emerge Australia website has been updated with links that are relevant to both ME/CFS and Long COVID. Information is easily accessible to all patients wanting to learn about energy management, PEM, stepwise symptoms management, and the Emerge Australia Financial Literacy workshop. This information increases their knowledge and understanding of ME/CFS and Long COVID, building capacity to implement self-management strategies such as pacing.

Emerge Australia's Telehealth Nursing Team is now supporting more people who live with ME/CFS and Long COVID. This has been possible through upgrading the "Info line" to the Patient Support and Information Service. This change has allowed the nursing team to directly connect with an additional 391 patients by phone and respond to 250 messages between January 1, 2022, and June 30, 2022.



*Register for a free  
consultation*

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

*Like Striking Gold*

# CHLOE'S STORY



When Chloe's ME/CFS worsened, she felt utterly alone. But one call from our Telehealth Nurse Service opened a world of support.

Chloe had been living with ME/CFS for 16 years before connecting with our Telehealth Nurse Service. But one day, her health worsened. Her already debilitating ME/CFS symptoms – like exertional intolerance, widespread pain and trouble concentrating – became even more severe.

Chloe couldn't leave the house. At times, she couldn't get out of bed. Unable to explain what was happening to those around her, she began to feel isolated and stricken with self-doubt.

*"When my relapse happened, I felt very alone. I was living in a world that didn't understand my illness. I minimised my suffering, and many of my daily experiences, due to other people's opinions. I struggled to admit I was unwell."*

Chloe still remembers her first telehealth call, and the gratitude she felt for her nurse's caring manner and deep knowledge of ME/CFS. Looking back, she feels she'd 'struck gold'.

*"I found the nurse very informative. She shared lived experience wisdom, tips, information and ideas, and reiterated the importance of pacing and understanding post-exertional malaise. I also really appreciated her gentleness and compassion. She listened actively, which provided respite from the daily overwhelm of living with symptoms and stigma."*

As the call continued, Chloe's nurse helped her acknowledge and accept the extent of her suffering. For the first time in years, Chloe felt understood.

*"Knowing I was supported helped me feel like I wasn't navigating the illness on my own. I felt validated, truly validated, for the first time in a long while."*

A year after her telehealth consultation, Chloe's wellbeing has improved. She's prioritising her ME/CFS needs and living in line with her available energy.

*"Through the Telehealth Nurse Service, I've been able to give myself permission to do what helps me. I've stopped trying to 'keep up' with the world around me and have put my ME/CFS needs at the centre instead."*

Each day, she's feeling more confident. With a toolkit of strategies at the ready, she's having better interactions with her healthcare team and her family, too.

*"I'm able to communicate and advocate for myself more directly. At home, I've streamlined our calendars. I share information about my energy levels (like my 'body battery') with my family. And I'm able to make adjustments, like putting a daybed in the lounge room, so I can be with my family more comfortably."*

She says acknowledging the significance of ME/CFS in her life, with the support of a committed nurse, has had huge benefits.

*"Even though I'm still in relapse and my symptoms haven't changed, my quality of life has improved, and the grief and distress has lessened significantly. I'm more aware and honest with myself about my capacity, which has reduced a lot of stress."*



*Support our Telehealth Nurse Service*

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

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

## *Statement of Profit and Loss*

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Bequests		33,936	-
Fundraising		72,633	-
Gifts and Donations		311,179	517,515
Government Grants - Recurrent		50,745	49,895
Government Grants - Non Recurrent		275,206	315,843
Grants - Tied		235,556	43,000
Grants - Non Tied		-	20,000
Interest		113	500
Membership		14,530	15,186
Other Income		420	260,998
Sales		25	3,014
		<u>994,343</u>	<u>1,225,951</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Accommodation		28,194	32,811
Administration		(213)	11,218
Communication		-	2,125
Depreciation		1,901	1,011
Emerge Journal Costs		12,770	8,087
Facilities and Equipment		7,150	180
Insurance		637	1,073
Other direct costs		62,069	69,243
Professional Fees		35,541	-
Program Costs		306,182	396,298
Program People Costs		265,864	-
Staffing Costs		479,403	628,349
		<u>1,199,498</u>	<u>1,150,395</u>
(Deficit)/surplus before income tax expense		(205,155)	75,556
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>(205,155)</u>	<u>75,556</u>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

## *Statement of Financial Position*

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	999,607	1,181,393
Trade and other receivables	3	33,152	9,477
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,032,759</u>	<u>1,190,870</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	4,373	4,319
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>4,373</u>	<u>4,319</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>1,037,132</u>	<u>1,195,189</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables	6	511,671	465,933
Provisions	7	26,724	25,364
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>538,395</u>	<u>491,297</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>538,395</u>	<u>491,297</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>498,737</u>	<u>703,892</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained surplus		498,737	703,892
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u>498,737</u>	<u>703,892</u>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

## Statement of Cash Flows

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from sales		25	3,014
Grants		524,611	188,558
Other receipts		432,698	831,252
Payments to employees and staffing costs		(478,043)	(685,700)
Payments to suppliers and others		(659,236)	(876,766)
Interest received		113	500
Net cash used in operating activities	8	<u>(179,832)</u>	<u>(539,142)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for purchase of property and equipment		<u>(1,954)</u>	<u>(889)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(1,954)</u>	<u>(889)</u>
Net decrease in cash held		(181,786)	(540,031)
Cash at the beginning of the year		<u>1,181,393</u>	<u>1,721,424</u>
Cash at the end of the year	2	<u>999,607</u>	<u>1,181,393</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 2022, 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 2022 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 may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road  
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

## Behind the scenes

# OUR PEOPLE

## Emerge Australia Staff

Anne Wilson	Chief Executive Officer
Dr Richard Scholleffel	Medical Director
Amy Gibson	Operations Manager
Laura Kool	Operations Officer
Rochelle Lade, PhD	Education and Advocacy Manager
Kate Herbert	Nurse Educator
Laura Allen	Health & Support Services Manager
Camille Williams	Telehealth Nurse
Michelle Tavoletti, PhD	Research Manager
Jessica Kauhausen, PhD	Biobank Coordinator
Simone Eyssens	Research Director
Susan Sayer	Donor Relations Manager
Kate Mills	Project Officer

### Previous staff members:

Rebecca Bramley, Louise De Pino, Luke Coolley

## Board of Management

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

## Medical and Scientific Advisory committee

Professor Paul Fisher	Mark Clisby
Dr Richard Schloeffel	Martin Wilkinson
Dr Mark Donohue	Dr Michelle Tavoletti
Dr Daniel Lewis	Laura Allen
Dr Chris Armstrong	Kate Herbert

## Volunteers

Jenny Meagher	Sarah Hookey
Carol van Eerden	Gretchen Netterfield
Louise De Pino	Dave Long
Jop Purnell	Anna Kerr
Louise Moodie	Maria Stamatakos
Jolien Hendrix	

## Providing hope

# OUR SUPPORTERS

## Funders

Department of Health, Prevention and Population Health  
 Commonwealth Department of Health  
 Centre for Community-Driven Research  
 The Mason Foundation  
 Carers Victoria  
 Phyllis' Connor Memorial Trust

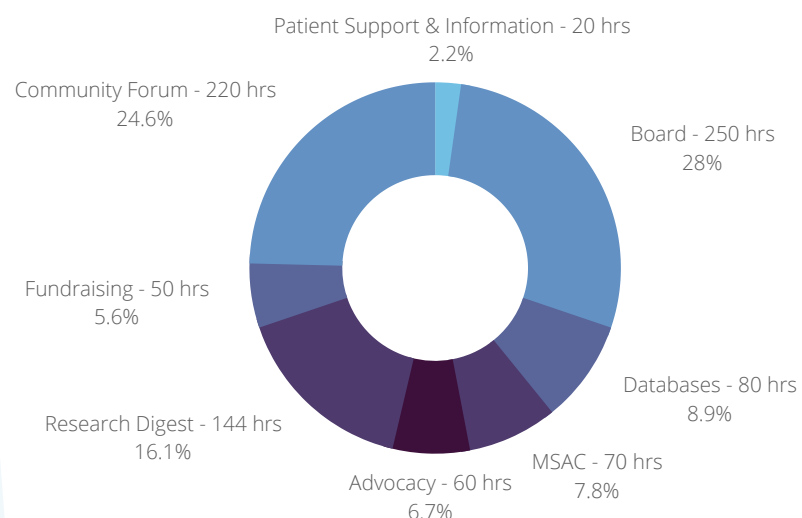
## Major Supporters

Blake-Beckett Trust  
 Els Bakker  
 Future Generations  
 Jo & John Grigg  
 Harper Bernays Charitable Trust  
 Maddocks Family  
 McCusker Charitable Foundation  
 Phyllis Connor Memorial Foundation  
 Elizabeth Russell  
 S.L Bray Memoria Foundation  
 The Louise & Martyn Myer Foundation  
 The Marion R Stobo Endowment  
 The William Angliss (VIC) Charitable Fund

## 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)

## Join our socials

Support the next generation of Australians impacted by ME/CFS.

**Search @emergeaustraliainc across all social media platforms**



**Connect with us**

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

