

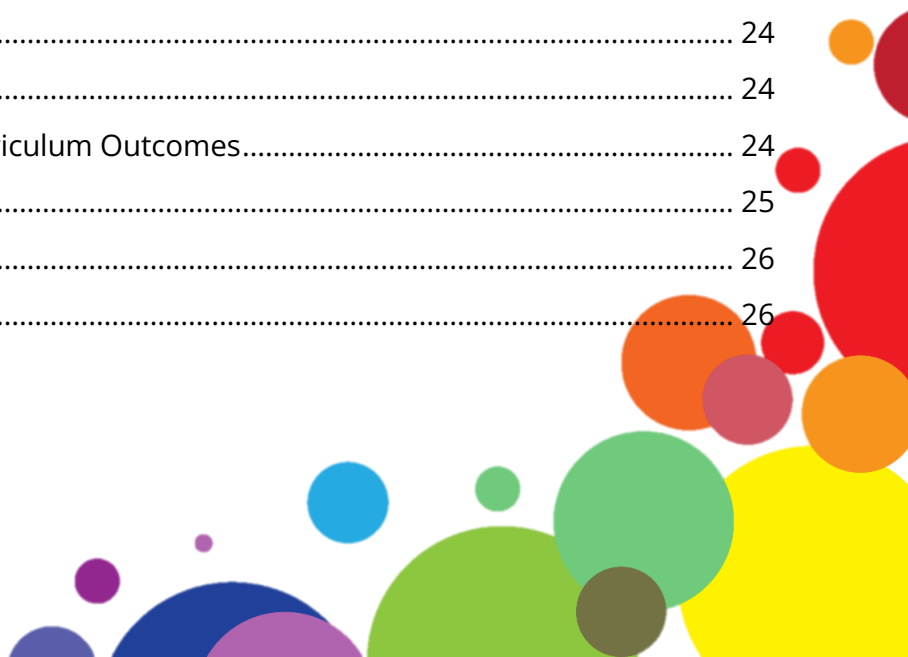
Mansfield Autism Statewide Services

A young child with brown hair, wearing a blue hoodie, is focused on peeling a red apple with a small knife. The child is looking down at the apple. In the foreground, there are several pink paper cups, some of which are out of focus. The background shows a wooden door and a window with a metal latch.

Annual Report 2023

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About Mansfield Autism Statewide Services

Mansfield Autism Statewide Services (MASS) is an independent not for profit organisation, which supports mostly young autistic people and their families. We are based in Mansfield in northeast Victoria and offer a state-wide service to the whole of Victoria.

The service was started in 1968 by a parent, Dr Joan Curtis, who experienced firsthand the lack of services to families in rural Victoria.

Dr Curtis dedicated herself to challenging this to create a program for autistic children and their families which acknowledges that 'the child's family are their most important teachers.'

Mansfield Autism continues to uphold this philosophy by working alongside families, education settings and service providers to offer a wide range of services. Our services are designed as a 'wrap around' model, so that each service complements and enhances the quality of care we provide our clients. All services are underpinned by the importance of engaging families and the benefits of exercise, healthy eating, increased independence, and developing good sleeping and hygiene.

Our goal is to instil understanding, confidence and determination in our clients and their families to create the best possible outcomes.

Educational therapy services are provided from a campus in Mansfield. We offer skill building stays where clients come to our facility and are supported to learn new skills. We recognise the importance of working with the family at home and provide an in-home service (Mansfield Autism Practitioners) that is available across Victoria. Mansfield Autism also provides opportunities for family camps, respite and outreach services.

We are also committed to providing the best possible care, training and employment options for existing adult clients in the Mansfield township.

More information on Mansfield Autism services is available on our website at this link: autismmansfield.org.au

Mansfield Autism staff and volunteers are passionate about making a difference and improving the hopes and lives of autistic people. Our staff come from varied backgrounds and work as a team to deliver services to meet the goals of the autistic person and their vital supports – family and community. We learn from our clients and from others who are leading research and practice in autism and disability services.

Our Culture

"The child's family are their most important teachers."

DR. JOAN CURTIS, FOUNDER 1968

At Mansfield Autism Statewide Services, we believe our culture drives our success.



VALUES

We are guided by our values: honesty, integrity, loyalty, dedication and a sense of fun.



FOCUS

As driven by our history, our focus is on our clients and their family. We work together to build their capacity and confidence. We willingly share our knowledge and work in partnership with other services.



GOALS

We set clear goals and have high expectations. We actively model our approach, are willing to take calculated risks and have a will to succeed.



WELLBEING

We promote health, wellbeing and time spent in nature, including exercise, healthy eating and sleep routines.



TEAMWORK

Our staff work together, are open and willing to learn, support each other and are part of the bigger collective that is Mansfield Autism.



From the Chairperson

2023 has been another very successful year for MASS.

The majority of the year the Board has focused on Operation gamechanger – focusing on the farm build. We held an open day in November to give our community the chance to see the purpose-built facility which we are looking forward to opening later this year.

I would firstly like to acknowledge Simone, our CEO, and all of the MASS team on the commitment, care and support they provide to everyone who access MASS services. The team's drive and dedication is reflected in the positive feedback we receive from our clients.

I would also like to thank our Board members who are all voluntary. Our Board support the implementation of our strategic plan and ensure we meet all governance requirements, allowing management and staff to provide exceptional autism services across the state of Victoria. I would particularly like to thank Rosie Vinton who was a parent representative on the Board for 3 years and stepped down during 2023.

The Board made the difficult decision to close the Dookie Campus at the end of 2023. This decision was made following the resignation of two of our long-term staff and being unable to fill these positions. We worked closely with each of the students affected to help them find alternative schools and support their transition.



Some key achievements for our Board and MASS during 2023 include:

- Continued focus on refining our Key Performance Indicators;
- Board Members have completed education on new Child Safe Standards
- Implemented a new fundraising strategy

We held over the development of a new strategic plan until 2024 when we begin implementing our services at the farm.

I would like to highlight significant fundraising events held by MASS. These events will support the fit out of our new facilities:

- Mansfield Show 'n' Shine
- Breakfast on the lawn
- Oscars Hut2Hut
- Mansfield Rideathon

This year we plan to run our annual dance at new facilities at the farm.

I would really like to recognise and give my sincere thanks to Simone and all the staff at MASS who continue to provide services to our clients and their families.

Melanie Green

Chair of the Board

From the CEO

2023 was a year of significant achievements and milestones, reflecting our commitment to excellence and innovation in providing quality services to our clients.

Some key achievements include:

- Implemented payroll, rostering, and HR software, streamlining our administrative processes and enhancing efficiency.
- Retired old collective agreements, ensuring all support staff are now governed by the SCHADS award.
- Launched MASS Learn, our online, interactive induction and training package.
- Overhauled client risk assessment processes, enhancing the safety and well-being of our clients.
- Successful completion of VRQA, Human Services Standards and external financial audits.
- Introduced a new intranet, facilitating communication and collaboration among teams.
- Transitioned to online forms for service intake, improving accessibility and convenience for our clients.
- Launching MARS, our new custom built client management system.

Unfortunately, after 17 incredibly successful years we had to close our Dookie campus due to being unable to recruit staff to vacant positions. Staff collaborated with local schools to ensure the smooth transition of the students into other schools and pathways. I would like to acknowledge the incredible dedication of the Dookie staff, some who were there for 17 years. Dookie demonstrated every year how students who struggle in mainstream



classrooms can shine and meet their full potential when provided with a supporting environment and empathetic and knowledgeable staff.

Once again, we have had incredible support from the Mansfield community who MASS feels an integral part of, and we thank them for their ongoing interest in our services and new development. We also thank the people, groups and organizations who have provided financial support including Alfred Felton Bequest, Dyson Bequest, Brian Davis Charitable Foundation, Harry and Clare Friday Foundation, Oscars 100 and Show'n'Shine. All funds raised go directly to furniture and fittings for our buildings on the farm.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to board members and colleagues for their unwavering support and dedication. The achievements and milestones outlined in this report are a testament to the collective effort and commitment of our entire team. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing our mission and delivering positive outcomes for our clients and communities.

Simone Reeves

Chief Executive Officer

Board of Management 2023

The Board of Management meets monthly to oversee the governance, management and strategic direction of the organisation, and to monitor the operational and financial position. The Board also monitors overall performance to make sure we can continue delivering high quality services long into the future.



Melanie Green | Chairperson

Melanie is currently working with the Mansfield District Hospital as Director of Operations and brings a varied and valuable skill set to the Board.



Martin Hunt | Vice Chair

Martin has a wealth of knowledge and experience ranging across property and planning law, commercial disputes and litigation, wills and estates, and succession planning.



Hanna de Vries | Treasurer

Hanna is an experienced accountant and worked as Finance Director in the public sector for more than 20 years. She has a deep understanding of corporate finance and the challenges that come with rapid growth.



Courtney O'Loughlin

Courtney is a passionate educator who has taught across government and non-government schools for more than a decade and worked as an academic in the tertiary sector supporting emerging teachers in teacher education.



Elizabeth Lodge

Elizabeth brings to the Board knowledge and experiences in governance, senior management, education, including working with children and young people with disabilities, marketing, communication and fundraising



Harry Westendorp

Harry's experience is as a senior executive managing operational, technical, sales, and marketing staff across multiple geographies. He also has extensive Board and governance experience dating back to 1995.

2023 in Review

Operation Gamechanger



Operation Gamechanger involves the development of a centre of excellence in autism services, delivered from a therapeutic care farm in Mansfield.

2023 was a big year for our expansion. In mid-December we have all our buildings up with roofs on, work starting on solar panels, power lines have been dropped underground, and work has started on the pathways and basic grass landscaping.

An update on our building progress:

- All twelve family cabins are built. This is where families will stay for our Family Camps; three-bedroom, two-bathroom houses all with views of Mt Buller.
- Three student residences finished. These residences will house eight students each, more than tripling our current capacity.
- Our two bedroom 'pods' were built offsite and transported to the farm and are now

complete with decks and gardens. These three pods will increase our capacity to offer respite and crisis care.

- The Multipurpose Activity Centre (the MAC) is built and at lockup stage: this includes offices, an activity centre and a commercial kitchen. A 60x30m open covered area will provide all weather outdoor space for recreation and activities.
- The meeting hut is also finished, resembling a high country hut and providing a lovely space to meet.
- Construction of the new school building is well underway: it is framed and the roof is on. We expect the build to be complete by mid 2024.

Visit our website for more updates and pictures: [Operation Gamechanger at end of 2023 - Mansfield Autism Statewide Services \(autismmansfield.org.au\)](https://autismmansfield.org.au)

Strategic Directions

Through two intensive strategic planning days, we crafted a comprehensive roadmap to guide our journey towards moving to our, soon to be ready, Therapeutic Care Farm. This strategic endeavour reflects our vision to expand our services and amplify our impact on the communities we support.

New Team!

We are delighted to announce the creation of a new team: the **MASS Allied Health Team**. This new team further augments our capacity to deliver comprehensive and integrated services to our clients.

Here are some of the things this team will work on:

- We will be looking at ways to continue to develop internal training using *MASS Learn*, the newly launched online learning site for all staff.
- We will scope and trial a new program to build independent living skills for young people with autism.
- We will be continuing to provide all staff with ongoing professional development around speech, language & communication within the context of autism.
- We will be considering how to best introduce Allied Health Assistants to the team.

Human Resources

MASS is committed to continuous improvement across our services, upskilling staff and keeping abreast of new developments in the field.

Over 12 months our leadership team were engaged in a rigorous leadership excellence training program. We invested in the development of our emerging leaders through a specialised training program. This initiative is aimed at identifying and priming future leaders who will play pivotal roles in steering our organisation towards continued success.

The feedback of our staff is invaluable in shaping our organisational culture and improving our services. We conducted a comprehensive staff feedback survey which we successfully workshoped the outcomes at our two-day professional development program for the entire staff. These initiatives

are integral to fostering a supportive and growth-orientated work environment.

We also launched MASS Learn, a comprehensive online, interactive induction and training platform. MASS learn ensures all staff are provided with the same information and are trained to the same standards.

Additionally, we appointed a Principal and Assistant Principal to our school, reinforcing our commitment to providing quality education.

At the end of 2023 we have 143 staff; with 32 new hires over the last 12 months.

As always, a huge thanks to all our incredible staff who helped us navigate the year with good humour and adaptability.



Update on our services



Local Programs

Local Programs has continued to grow this year, extending the School Holiday Program, Outreach and Respite to support local families. In the last year we have provided support to over 30 local clients and are currently employing 18 workers. We have two residential settings providing overnight stays, which are full 80% of each month.

We continue to receive consistent feedback from local families that Local Programs is providing an essential and highly valued service which has a positive impact on their daily lives.

We love this feedback on our Local Programs:

"I am emailing to say how grateful we are that Mansfield Autism was able to look after

our son during the recently concluded school holidays. It really gave us a much needed break – mostly recovery time, but also time to do some things with our other child. More importantly, it was so good for our son. As I said when dropping him off two weeks ago, he really was at a loose end for the first two days of the school holidays and was becoming a little destructive and quite a handful for us. But as you saw when we dropped him off, he was so happy to be at MASS. When we collected him last Sunday, he was also very happy and calm, occupied but also very glad to see us. His stay with you was very therapeutic, and clearly left him less anxious than he had been."





Family Camps

We were so happy to be able to offer four camps in 2023. While these camps provide a much-needed family holiday in an understanding and supportive environment, they are also an important part of induction for new staff. Family camps provide new staff with a great insight into how autism can impact the whole family.

Staff from all services come together to work

alongside each other. It can be an exhausting week for the staff, but it is also extremely rewarding to see what can be achieved when our team works together to wrap all our supports around the families.

In 2024 we look forward to offering camps from our new facilities!

We love this feedback on our December camp:

I want to say a huge massive thank you to all of you. The background work you do is evident to me is that never once did I have to explain my son, his needs or point out his pattern of escalations. The staff who worked with me were always noticing things at the same time I was, which is such a novel experience – I'm grateful. Our MAP listened when I advocated for my daughters and pointed out that they would always be compliant but that I was noticing signs of stress in them. She adjusted his program constantly and as a result his sisters were able to stay engaged and happy throughout his camp. This is a MIRACLE!!!

Mansfield Autism Practitioners

Our Mansfield Autism Practitioner (MAP) service supported 184 families in 2023. The team continued to engage in regular reflective practice meetings to keep up with changes in NDIS reporting requirements, and to provide peer support with challenging cases.

All MAPs, supervisors and team leaders were formally approved to practice as behaviour support practitioners after undergoing the self-assessment for the NDIS capability framework.

Some feedback from the year:

- “During our MAPs first visit (about 4 hours), she observed and took notes. At the end she relayed back to me all the positive things she saw with my son and my current approach. She was so respectful and intelligent in the way she did this. It’s hard to describe how important this experience was. At that point in time, things were really hard and I was really overwhelmed. Her

encouragement was vital.

And not just glib things that people say to parents of challenging children, like you’re a saint. etc. She saw me and saw my child and relayed it all back. This never happens, people see you with your kid and they judge. It was so valuable for me to muster the energy to keep going.”

- “We have been able to build upon the skills that our daughter learnt during her therapeutic placement at home. It was the catalyst for bringing about some positive change in our daughters life after a tricky 3-4 years.”
- “The service we access from MASS is the best type of therapeutic intervention for our family at this point in time.”
- “Out of all the therapies we have done I find the MAP visits most helpful as they are implemented from our real life, everyday situations at home, school, appointments and in the community.”

Mansfield School

The Mansfield School Campus continues to support our local families with education options for students aged 5 – 18 years.

As of the census date in August 2023 we had 22 students enrolled in our school as day students, with 11 students enrolled full time and 11 students enrolled part time.

In 2023 we continued to run our therapeutic hands-on learning program two days per week. The program has a focus on local produce, bush walks, and art and craft. Students engaged in cooking seasonal produce and sharing a meal together each week. Students have learnt barista and customer service skills at their coffee mornings. Students screen printed t-shirts and sold them along with plants and artwork at the end of year Christmas market.

Overall, class numbers for our Mansfield campus remained consistent from the previous year. We have an older cohort of students who are actively engaged in life skills programs, and a younger cohort who are supported to develop play based and social skills. Our students may also have a dual enrolment with a local primary school.

We continue to focus on health and wellbeing with many activities to support the mental health and wellbeing of our students.

Our Mansfield Campus has supported one school-based apprenticeship with a student from Mansfield High School in 2023.

Closure of Dookie Campus

We have made the sad and difficult decision to close our school campus at Dookie. For over 17 years our Dookie Campus has supported autistic students aged 11 to 18. Despite months of searching for new teaching staff, at a time when there is a critical shortage of teachers nationwide, we were unable to find the right staff that would enable us to keep running Dookie, so we had to make the decision to close the doors and focus on helping the students transition to different schools. We will miss our amazing Dookie students very much but hope to run a camp for them to come together again in 2024.

Therapeutic Behaviour Support Placement

In 2023 we supported 19 clients with a Therapeutic Residential Placement. The Therapeutic Residential Placement is an intensive 24/7 model of therapeutic support over a period of up to nine weeks, providing a highly supportive and consistent environment, structured to reduce anxieties and build capacity to learn new skills. On completion of the placements, MAPs further support the transition of skills developed at the Therapeutic Placement into the home environment.

We looked at the best ways to transfer skills and familiar routines to the family home and other residential settings after a placement. Families came to stay in Mansfield to see our staff work with their children in real time, and we supported families with a MAP and a

residence worker on home weekends and directly after a placement.

We also trialled a shorter skill building stays for clients who we thought would benefit from this length of stay and will continue refining this model over the next year or so in preparation for moving to the farm.

Some feedback from this year:

- "It was a life-changing experience, some of the strategies might have been more difficult to implement at home, but we were able to adapt and make them work."
- "Attending the therapeutic placement helped our daughter establish the routine of attending school every day, something that she was struggling to achieve at home. Since returning from Mansfield, she has been attending school every day!"
- "I think MASS is an amazing service and I recommend to anyone I can."

Adult Services

A new team leader and supervisor were appointed to our adult group, a group of men whom we continue to be committed to supporting and enhancing their quality of life.

The move to the farm has allowed for a big clean out and a fresh start. The new location has a kitchen, lounge and dining room and a multi-purpose space. A shed has been constructed so the clients can continue to make their concrete pavers. The clients and

the staff have enjoyed the change of pace and are responding well to being part of the new developments at the farm.

We welcomed several new staff members this year which is pleasing as the clients always enjoy meeting and working with new staff members. All staff continue their commitment to supporting the clients to spend time in nature and make healthy food choices.

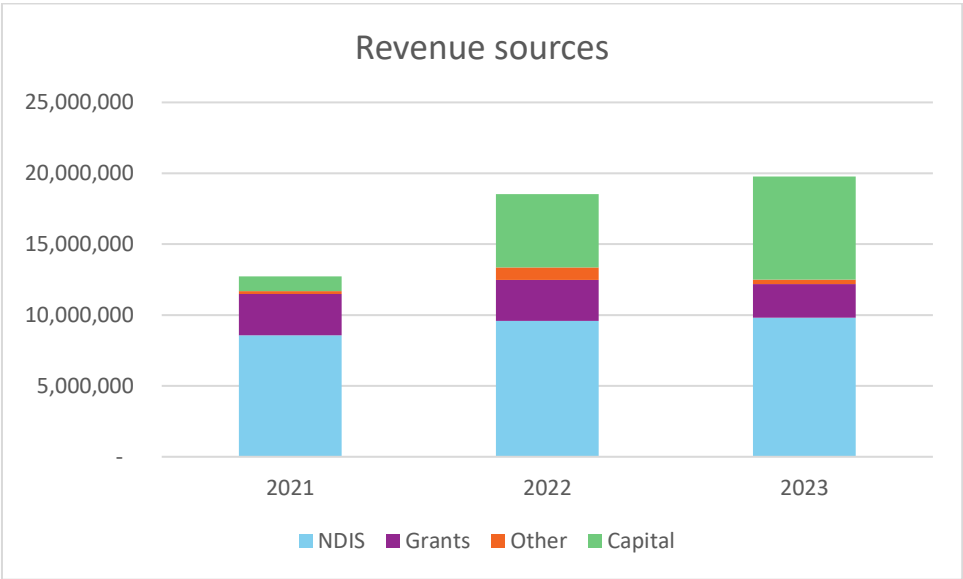


Financials

The 2023 Financial Statements have been prepared and audited by our appointed auditor, Moggs Accounting & Advisory CPA. The Financial Statements have been certified by the auditor as being true and correct without qualification.

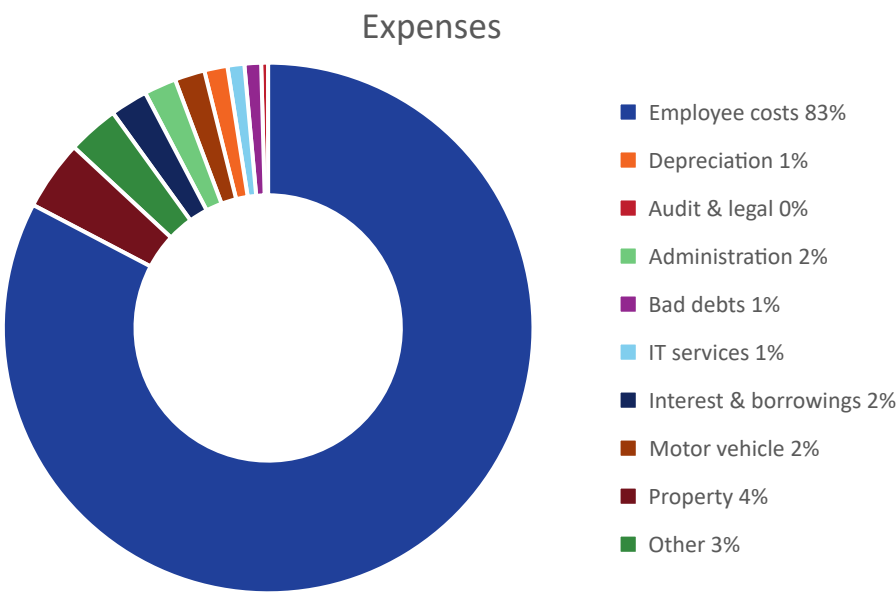
Revenue

Our revenue for 2023 was \$19.8 million. The majority of our income came from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (\$9.8 million), with additional income from State and Commonwealth grants (\$2.4 million) and other sources (\$315,050). Capital grant payments for the development of our therapeutic care farm was \$7.2 million.



Expenses

Our expenses in 2023 totalled \$12.3 million. Employee costs were our largest expenditure at \$10 million.



Balance sheet

	2023	2022
PROFIT & LOSS		
Revenue	2,368,668	2,896,493
Other income	10,128,056	9,816,344
Employee benefits expense	(10,192,286)	(9,555,617)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(174,160)	(204,568)
Audit, legal & consultancy fees	(52,131)	(56,101)
Administration expenses	(241,979)	(191,362)
Bad debts	(125,049)	(44,113)
IT services	(126,531)	(140,336)
Interest on borrowings	(281,547)	(9,434)
Motor vehicle expenses	(226,047)	(188,350)
Property expenses	(524,665)	(397,092)
Program expenditure	(384,402)	(300,593)
Net current year surplus	167,929	1,625,271
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Capital Grants Revenue	7,274,332	5,166,114
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Assets	3,813	650,610
Total other comprehensive (losses)/income for the year	7,278,145	5,816,724
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	7,446,073	7,441,995
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,424,821	4,258,566
Trade and other receivables	487,355	225,430
Other current assets	158,076	96,104
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	5,070,252	4,580,100
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant & equipment	34,045,838	17,417,548
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	34,045,838	17,417,548
TOTAL ASSETS	39,116,089	21,997,648
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	1,834,766	535,499
Employee Provisions	1,044,556	957,818
Borrowings	816,000	-
Lease Liability	2,813	3,372
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	3,698,135	1,496,689

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Borrowings	6,691,690	1,490,855
Employee Provisions	558,220	435,582
Lease Liability	-	2,811
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	7,249,910	1,929,248
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,948,046	3,425,937
NET ASSETS	28,168,044	18,571,711
EQUITY		
Retained surplus	24,801,430	17,355,357
Valuation reserve - land and buildings	3,366,614	1,216,353
TOTAL EQUITY	28,168,044	18,571,710

Auditor's Declaration



MANSFIELD AUTISM STATEWIDE SERVICES LTD
ABN: 14 006 171 580
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
MANSFIELD AUTISM STATEWIDE SERVICES LTD

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Mansfield Autism Statewide Services Ltd (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the registered entity is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (the ACNC Act), including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards – AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Registered Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ACNC Act, the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities and the ACNC Act and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the 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 directors are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our 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 our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the 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 this financial report.

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

MANSFIELD AUTISM STATEWIDE SERVICES LTD
ABN: 14 006 171 580
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
MANSFIELD AUTISM STATEWIDE SERVICES LTD

- 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 our 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 Registered Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' 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 registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are 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 our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity 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.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Auditor's firm: Moggs Audit + Assurance Pty Ltd (RAC #327238)



Auditors Name: Peter Mogg - Director

Address: 40-44 High Street
COBRAM VIC 3644

Dated this 14th day of March 2024

Directors' Declaration

MANSFIELD AUTISM STATEWIDE SERVICES LTD
ABN: 14 006 171 580
DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of Mansfield Autism Statewide Services Ltd, the directors of the entity declare that:

- 1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 4 to 19, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
 - (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures applicable to the entity; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered entity as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subs 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Director 
Melanie Green - Chair

Director 
Hanna de Vries - Treasurer

Dated this 14th day of March 2024

Appendix 1: School Enrolment Profile

In 2023 we had 10 students enrolled at our Dookie Campus and 22 students enrolled at our Mansfield Campus (Day Program). We had 16 students join us for a Residential Placement. Two students had English as an additional language or identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Attendance rates

Dookie Campus student attendance in 2023: 77%

The average student attendance rate for 2023 at Dookie Campus Secondary School was calculated on 181 days of school for the cohort of 11 students. Phone calls were made to parents requesting reasons for absences where these have not been provided.

Mansfield Campus student attendance in 2023: 94%

The average student attendance rate for 2023 at Mansfield Campus was calculated on 181 days of school for the cohort of 22 students. Phone calls were made to parents requesting reasons for absences where these have not been provided.

Staff Profile 2023

Teaching staff deliver programs through our Therapeutic Residential Placement as well as our educational day programs at the Mansfield and Dookie Campuses.

Staff employed across both campuses:

Full time teachers	5
Part time teachers	5
Full time assistants	4
Part time assistants	12
Principal	1
Team leader	1
Total staff	28

Additional sessional staff are employed for Yoga, Massage, Music and Art at one or both campuses.

All teachers at the school meet the registration requirements of the Victorian Institute of Teaching (www.vit.vic.edu.au). The school meets prescribed minimum standards for registration as regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform Act 2006.

The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

Measurement & Assessment of Curriculum Outcomes

In 2023 all students of Mansfield Autism Statewide Services were exempt and did not participate in any form of external testing such as NAPLAN.

Each student attending our Mansfield and Dookie campuses has an Individualised Learning Plan and tailored program to suit each student's needs. We have a strong emphasis on the social, emotional and health and wellbeing of our students, and we work with our students and families to make gains in these areas. We help each

student to recognise and foster their individual strengths and interest areas.

The goals for the Individualised Learning Plans are developed in a collaborative team approach including teachers, parents and allied health practitioners where possible. Information on individual development and progress is provided to parents through mid-year and end of year reporting.

Parent and Student Satisfaction

We do not participate in the National Schools Opinion Survey. Internally we offer families an annual satisfaction survey to provide feedback on our education services. Due to the small nature of our school, parents are provided with many opportunities to communicate directly with our teaching staff, and we encourage regular informal feedback from our teaching staff to

our families. Overall, we continue to have a strong level of satisfaction with our education service and a high level of engagement in school from our students. 100% of respondents strongly agree that they are satisfied with the quality of education their child is receiving.

When asked 'as a school, what areas do you think we do well', family responses include:

- “The small size, the location and the whole family model is what makes MASS exceptional.”
- “I would like to thank all the staff at MASS from admin to teachers and caregivers for the support for both my son and my whole family. Having autism in the family is always a challenge however you have all made it that little bit easier.”





Acknowledgements

In the spirit of reconciliation, Mansfield Autism Statewide Services acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today. Mansfield Autism is based in Mansfield where Taungurung people have been caring for the mountains, lakes and rivers for thousands of years.

We want to say a special thank you to all Mansfield Autism staff – it is because of their incredible support and adaptability that we could continue to provide every client with high quality, best practice care.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Board of Management for their dedication, confidence and belief in our services and ongoing support.

Contact us

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