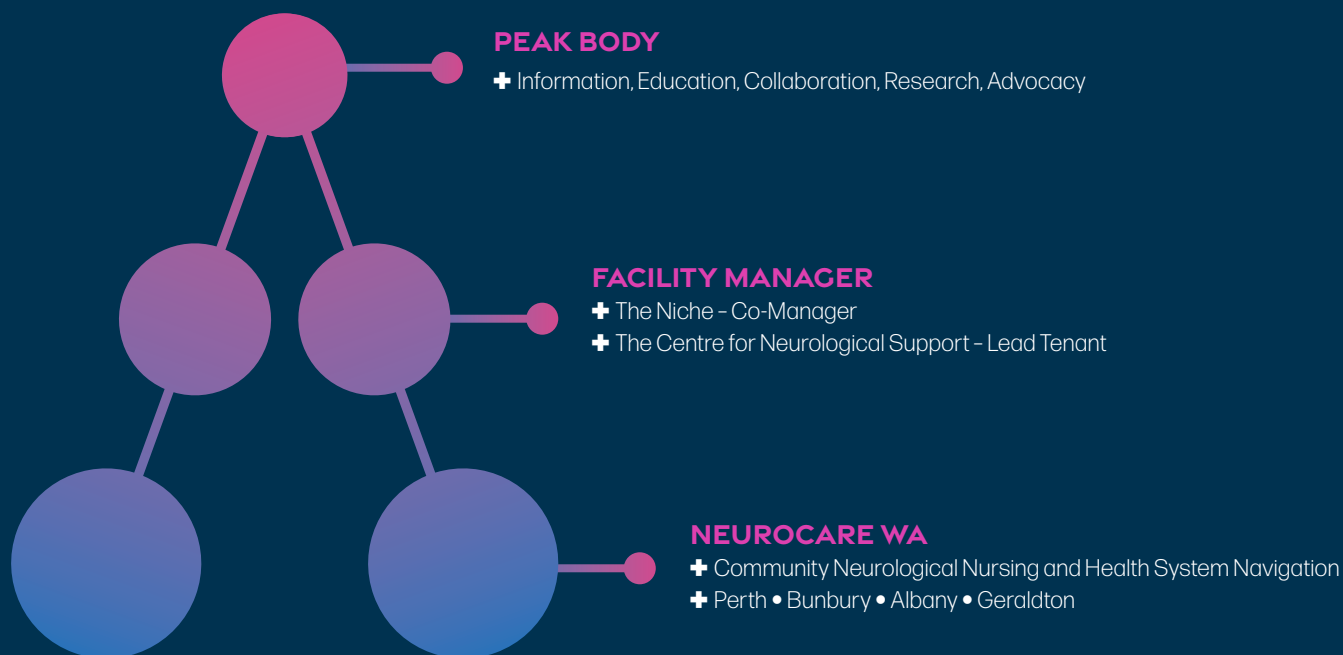




## ABOUT THE NEUROLOGICAL COUNCIL OF WA

The Neurological Council of WA is a not-for-profit peak body for the community neurological sector and people living with neurological conditions in Western Australia. We have 3 main activities:

- Act as a **peak body** to support collaboration and value creation within the neurological sector.
- Co-Chair **The Niche Lotteries House** Management Committee, on the QEII Medical Campus Nedlands, and manage the **Centre for Neurological Support**.
- Deliver **Neurocare WA**, a state-wide neurological nursing and health system navigation service, with offices located in Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton and Perth.



The Neurological Council is dedicated to reducing the incidence and impact of brain, spinal cord and nervous system disorders.

We work with disease and condition specific neurological organisations, as well as research, health, disability and aged care professionals, to champion brain health, and improve community awareness, understanding and management of neurological conditions.

Our **Neurocare WA** service complements public health care by supporting individuals, families and carers through community neurological nursing and health system navigation, and providing clinical information, education and advocacy. Specially trained community neurological nurses tailor services to individual needs, including help understand and cope with a recent diagnosis, manage symptoms or functional impact, retain or regain functional capacity, improve wellbeing and quality of life, and empower people to live and participate in their communities.

We support Western Australians of all ages experiencing neurological symptoms or living with a neurological diagnosis. Neurocare WA is majority funded by the WA Department of Health. To enable continuity of care, the Neurological Council is a registered NDIS provider and can also offer neurological nursing services for NDIS participants.

## HIGHLIGHTS 2022/23

CNN, Adrienna Elliott, won the MNDWA Outstanding Health Professional Award 2022 for her work supporting patients and families impacted by Motor Neurone Disease (see CEO's report)



The Neurological Council of WA celebrated 30 years of service on World Brain Day 2022



NCWA Community Neurological Leaders Forums brings CEOs together to advance our common purpose.

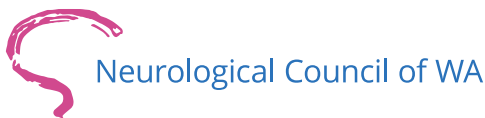
The NCWA booth at 'Have a Go Day' proved to be a popular attraction



## CENTRE FOR NEUROLOGICAL SUPPORT (CNS)

The Neurological Council of WA is a lead tenant and co-chair of The Niche Lotteries House located within the QEII Medical Centre Precinct. We manage the Centre for Neurological Support and offer affordable accommodation to 12 co-located neurological not-for-profit organisations, in our fully accessible, purpose-built premises. CNS is recognised as a hub of neurological activity and support, creating a sense of community and a collaborative culture, positively influencing the neurological landscape.

### CNS MEMBERS



## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022/23



**Professor Charles Watson AM**  
Chairman



**John McLean**  
Treasurer



**Etta Palumbo**  
Chief Executive Officer



**David Freedman**  
Director



**Dr Linda Friedland**  
Director



**Professor Alan Harvey,**  
Director



**Dr Darshan Ghia**  
Director



**Ian Passmore OAM**  
Director



**Karene Primrose**  
Director



**Marianne Slattery**  
Director

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CLIENT PROFILE



**28** Staff  
(20.5 FTE Staff)



**306** telehealth virtual  
care hours



**19** Neurological  
Nurses (15.5 FTE)



**6619** telehealth  
telephone care hours



**4** Offices - Perth,  
Bunbury, Albany,  
Geraldton



**156** hospital-based  
multidisciplinary care  
meetings/clinics (812 hours)

**2018** clients supported



**167** different health  
conditions / symptoms  
managed



**15,056** hours  
of direct care (34%  
increase)

**45** NDIS clients (594 hours)

**957** new clients from 1052  
new referrals (15% increase)

**48** clients identified as ATSI



**924** clients  
discharged,  
71 deceased



**32** clients required  
interpreter

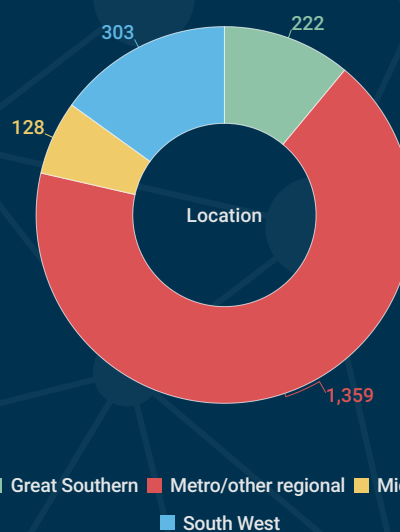
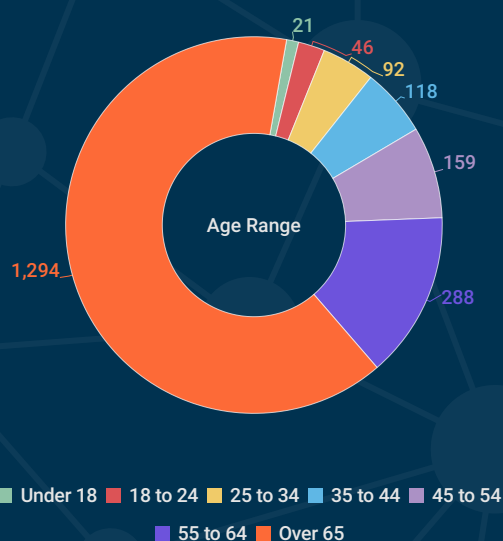


**3335** home visit  
care hours



**52%** Female /  
**47%** Male

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CLIENT PROFILE (cont.)



## CATEGORISATION OF CONDITIONS OR SYMPTOMS MANAGED

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| No Diagnosis   | 6           |
| Cerebral palsy   | 3           |
| CVD Cerebral ischaemia   | 437         |
| CVD Cerebral vasoconstriction vascular syndromes                   | 19          |
| CVD Intracranial haemorrhage                                       | 56          |
| Disorders of cerebrospinal fluid pressure or flow                  | 8           |
| Disorders of neuromuscular junction or muscle                      | 47          |
| Dissociative neurological symptom disorder                         | 113         |
| Epilepsy or seizures   | 179         |
| Headache disorder  | 37          |
| Infections of CNS  | 10          |
| Injuries to head or spinal cord                                    | 56          |
| Motor neuron diseases or related disorders                         | 166         |
| Movement disorder Ataxic   | 13          |
| Movement disorder Choreiform                                       | 3           |
| Movement disorder Dystonic   | 7           |
| Movement disorder Parkinsonism                                     | 221         |
| Movement disorder Tremor   | 21          |
| Multiple sclerosis or other white matter disorders                 | 29          |
| Neoplasms of brain or CNS  | 63          |
| Neurocognitive disorder  | 90          |
| Neurocognitive impairment  | 82          |
| Neuropathies & cranial nerve disorders                             | 2           |
| Neuropathies cranial nerve disorders                               | 75          |
| Other nervous system disorders                                     | 56          |
| Other system disorders   | 8           |
| Pain disorders   | 27          |
| Spinal cord disorders excluding trauma                             | 11          |
| Structural developmental anomalies                                 | 6           |
| Symptoms signs or clinical findings of cognition or nervous system | 167         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>2018</b> |



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### PROFESSOR CHARLES WATSON AM

As a neurological peak body for Western Australia, we are committed to our mission of providing leadership and community-based services for people impacted by neurological conditions. To this end, we have worked hard to create strong partnerships and collaborations with our communities and specialist member organisations to strengthen our collective voice and impact.

I am pleased to report that the past year has been very strong for the Neurological Council. Our Chief Executive Officer, Etta Palumbo, and her team have made great progress on our strategic plan and modernising our operations. Our Finance Controller/Corporate Services Manager, Milinda Walker, has done an outstanding job upgrading the effectiveness of our finance and reporting systems. Important to directly contributing to our mission, our community-based neurological nursing team, led by Kym Heine, have supported a record number of clients. Despite no additional funding or resources, this has been achieved through implementing efficiencies and innovations to create additional capacity and to improve the quality of services provided throughout Perth, Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton and beyond.

A key goal for this year was to plan a community neurological sector conference that will be convened on World Brain Day, which is marked every July 22. In 2023, the World Health Federation's theme is "Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind". We are delighted by the quality of the speakers, strong support from our fellow neurological organisations and stakeholders, and the tireless efforts of Etta and her team preparing for this inaugural event.

We have continued to receive invaluable financial support from the State Government through Department of Health Centre of Excellence funding. However, the crucial importance of access to community-based neurological services has been underscored by the increasing difficulty people face in gaining access to a neurologist, with current waiting times often longer than twelve months. Neurological conditions are now the leading cause of disability and second leading cause of death worldwide, placing significant burden on health, disability and aged care systems. With a growing and ageing population living with chronic illness, we continue to lobby the Department of Health to prioritize and properly resource both hospitals and the community sector to improve health outcomes and lives of Western Australians living with over 600 recognised neurological conditions.

Finally, I thank my fellow Board members for their generous support and willingness to contribute to important debates on strategic issues. I welcome the return of my research colleague, Alan Harvey, to the Board, and I want to recognise and thank retiring member, Marianne Slattery, our nursing representative director, for the important role she has played in providing clinical governance guidance and oversight during the past 5 years.

**Professor Charles Watson**





## CEO'S REPORT

### ETTA PALUMBO

The Neurological Council of WA commemorated 30 years of neurological community service in July 2022, and our highly successful celebratory event on World Brain Day brought together neurological leaders, clinicians and researchers from across the health, disability and aged care sectors. The event gave us the opportunity to advance our mission to provide neurological sector leadership and community-based services for people impacted by neurological conditions in Western Australia by launching an ambitious new Strategic Plan for 2022-2025. I'm pleased to report that we have made good progress in our first year despite capacity and resource constraints.

The Neurological Council of WA currently receives no peak body funding, but we endeavor to build relationships and foster understanding, collaboration and partnerships wherever we can. We convened quarterly Community Neurological Leaders Forums bringing together Perth's community neurological CEOs and senior delegates to explore common issues, challenges and opportunities, and consider the role we could play in locally implementing relevant aspects of the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s *Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders 2022-2031 (IGAP)*. The forums have been well supported and there is a strong appetite among members to work more closely together for the greater good, to communicate the voices of our respective communities and to act as a reference group to better inform and shape data management, policy development and funding decisions.

Our inaugural Community Neurological Sector Conference, themed "Feeling Right at Home: Clinical and Community Neurological Collaboration" is scheduled for July 2023. It will be the first of many profile raising, cross sector initiatives for members, stakeholders and people with lived experience, to come together, sharing ideas, innovations, research, data and resources, in an effort to create transformational and sustainable improvement to neurological health and lives. I am also involved in discussion and activities being led by other organisations to address neurologically related access and health inequality issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, young people within the youth justice system, women and children impacted by domestic violence, residential aged care recipients and people living in regional and remote Western Australia. This work highlights the enormity of unmet need and the far-reaching individual, societal and financial impacts associated with undiagnosed, untreated and unmanaged brain and neurological disorders.

Demand for our Neurocare WA continues to grow with referrals for community neurological nursing and health navigations services now averaging 110 new referrals per month, up 15%. With no new funding and increasing wage, travel and operational costs associated with delivering services outstripping indexation, our exceptional team of neuronurses have worked incredibly hard to service the increased demand in a timely, effective and professional manner. This was achieved through an ever-changing Covid-19 environment, where pandemic provisions and risks fortunately became less taxing in the latter months of the financial year, but still pose a threat to some of our most vulnerable clients.

We continued to invest in digitization and business improvement to improve Department of Health funding return on investment, customer value, and improved monitoring and report on client outcomes.

The exceptional calibre of our community neurological nurses, was recognized by the sector following two significant honours: CNN, Adrienna Elliott, won the MNDWA Outstanding Health Professional Award 2022 for her work supporting patients and families impacted by Motor Neurone Disease; and our late Executive Director, Adjunct Associate Professor Kathleen McCoy was posthumously inducted on to the Lifetime Achievement Honour Roll at the WA Nursing and Midwifery Awards for her work establishing WA's integrated inward/outward community neurological nursing model of care.

I am grateful for the unwavering support of my Board, leadership team, staff and volunteers and extend my sincere thanks to each of them for their individual and team contributions to our success. I also recognise and thank our members, stakeholders and neurological community who we value the opportunity to work with to advance our important and common cause.

I look forward to building on our significant achievements in 2023/2024.

**Etta Palumbo**

Chief Executive Officer



## TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN A MCLEAN

I have pleasure in providing a report to accompany the Neurological Council of WA's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income shows an increase in income from \$2,598,318 in 2021/22 to \$2,891,148 in 2022/23 (an increase of \$292,830). This increase was in part due to an uplift in recurrent funding from the Department of Health, but the largest component is profits on the sale of assets, predominantly vehicles.

Our operational funding from the Department of Health is currently provided on a short-term basis. It has included modest annual increments. We remain optimistic that a long-term contract will be offered during 2024 with some allowance for expanded operations. This will provide the certainty we require in order to fully implement our Strategic Plan.

The sale of assets relates to the turnover of our vehicle fleet. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on global supply chains, trade in values of vehicles were inflated, resulting in the profit on sales of assets amounting to \$168,401 in 2022/23. The flip side of this is that the cost of replacing these vehicles has also increased and this will result in increased depreciation.

Our expenses increased from \$2,543,863 in 2021/22 to \$2,767,019 in 2022/23. This increase of \$223,156 was mainly attributable to Wages and Salaries which increased from \$1,819,214 to \$1,969,204 (\$149,990). Staff numbers were relatively static, so this increase was largely driven by increases in the rates of pay prescribed under the relevant Awards.

The surplus for 2022/23 of \$124,129 comprises a small operating loss offset by profits on the sale of vehicles.

Our Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023 looks a little different to the position as at 30 June 2022. While it appears quite different in presentation, the underlying numbers are not that different.

Provisions for Equipment and for House Refurbishment, which were shown as Non-Current Liabilities last year, have been reclassified as Members' Funds. This reflects the fact these monies have been set aside for refurbishment and the replacement of vehicles and equipment and will be spent at the discretion of the Board of the Neurological Council. In other words, they are not monies owed to a third party.

Other balance sheet movements reflect the expenditure on vehicles and equipment referred to previously, and an increase in Accruals from \$6,923 in 2022 to \$79,126 in 2023. This increase of around \$72,000 is predominately due to a year end wage accrual.

Our cash position remains strong, and we are fully covered for our liabilities to the Department of Health, our staff and to third parties.

Our auditors, Moore Australia, have completed their audit work and have provided an unqualified audit opinion on our accounts. I take this opportunity to thank them for the professional manner in which they have discharged their obligations.

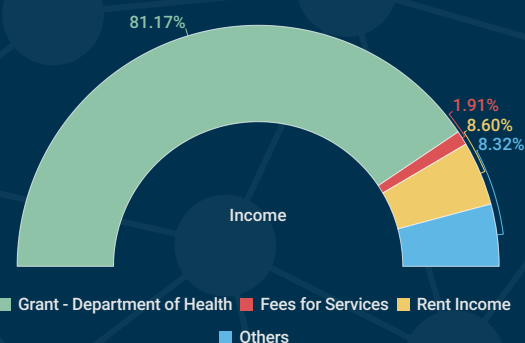
I also thank our accounts team Milinda, Bijal and Vandana. As a Board we appreciate their commitment and skill in delivering high quality financial information to us on a timely basis.

**John McLean**

## FINANCIALS 2022/23

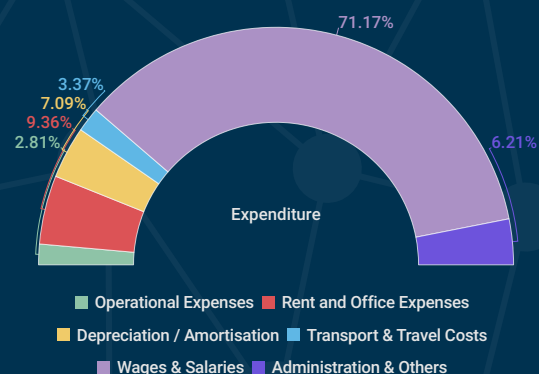
### INCOME

|                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Grant - Department of Health | \$ 2,346,737        |
| Fees for Services            | \$ 55,184           |
| Rent Income                  | \$ 248,755          |
| Others                       | \$ 240,472          |
| <b>Total Income</b>          | <b>\$ 2,891,148</b> |



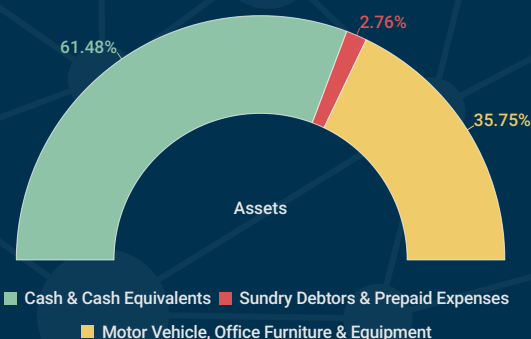
### EXPENDITURE

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Operational Expenses        | \$ 77,666           |
| Rent and Office Expenses    | \$ 258,935          |
| Depreciation / Amortisation | \$ 196,301          |
| Transport & Travel Costs    | \$ 93,123           |
| Wages & Salaries            | \$ 1,969,204        |
| Administration & Others     | \$ 171,790          |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>    | <b>\$ 2,767,019</b> |



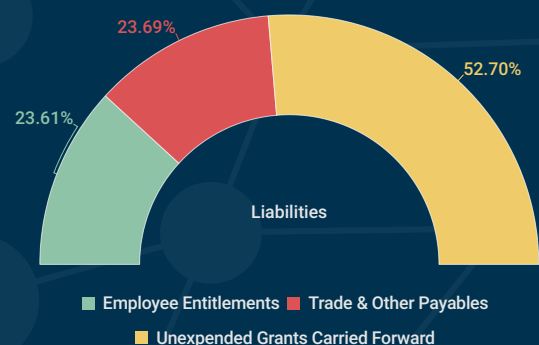
### ASSETS

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Cash & Cash Equivalents                     | \$ 1,904,770        |
| Sundry Debtors & Prepaid Expenses           | \$ 85,575           |
| Motor Vehicle, Office Furniture & Equipment | \$ 1,107,611        |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                         | <b>\$ 3,097,956</b> |



### LIABILITIES

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Employee Entitlements                       | \$ 197,863        |
| Trade & Other Payables                      | \$ 198,541        |
| Unexpended Grants Carried Forward           | \$ 441,613        |
| Provisions: Equipment & House Refurbishment | \$ -              |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                    | <b>\$ 838,017</b> |



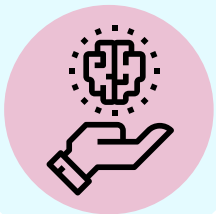
# Strategic Plan 2022-2025

## Mission:

*Leadership and community-based services for people affected by neurological conditions in Western Australia.*



### 1 Our Community



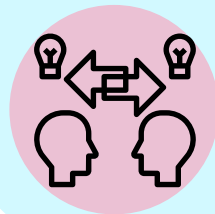
- Foster valued relationships with people affected by neurological conditions, based on care, respect, dignity, and mutual trust, with an emphasis on empowerment and autonomy through their life-course.
- Deliver person-centred, timely, effective, and efficient health care, including assistance with navigation, education, advocacy, support, and information for clients, carers, and families.
- Provide integrated, evidence-based programs, health care pathways and services to reduce the impact and burden of neurological disorders and to maximise quality of life and wellbeing.
- Provide accessible, equitable and affordable services that are responsive to regional, cultural, and social challenges.

### 2 Our Sector



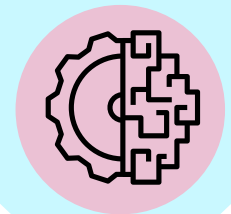
- Identify, strengthen, and amplify the voice of people impacted by neurological conditions to influence policy, plans, legislation, and funding.
- Collaborate with government, business, research organisations, and community stakeholders to advance the availability of multidisciplinary and multisectoral neurological services.
- Build stakeholder, funder and donor awareness, trust, and engagement to support the Council's mission, growth, and sustainability.
- Collaborate with organisations with a common purpose to create collective impact through ongoing communication, research, mutually reinforcing activities, sharing resources, advocacy, and sector representation.
- Create neurological health promotion campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of promoting and protecting brain health and preventing neurological disorders.

### 3 Our People



- Create a modern, safe, adaptable and well-functioning work environment.
- Inform, empower, and provide resources to staff to enable them to perform at their best.
- Build a high-performance team culture that is positive, productive, respectful, collaborative, and inclusive.
- Build capacity through continuous improvement of service offerings, models of care, consistency, professional development, and refinement and understanding of scope of practice.

### 4 Our Business



- Maintain a sound and ethical corporate governance framework with legislative, regulatory & program compliance.
- Develop a best practice organisational model that is contemporary and strategically aligned.
- Strengthen financial sustainability through funding security, aligned diversification, and revenue growth.
- Embrace and invest in business improvement, environmental sustainability, innovation, and data systems to improve customer value, improve community experience, and to monitor and report on client outcomes.
- Improve recognition of the Neurological Council as a leading provider of community neurological services.